

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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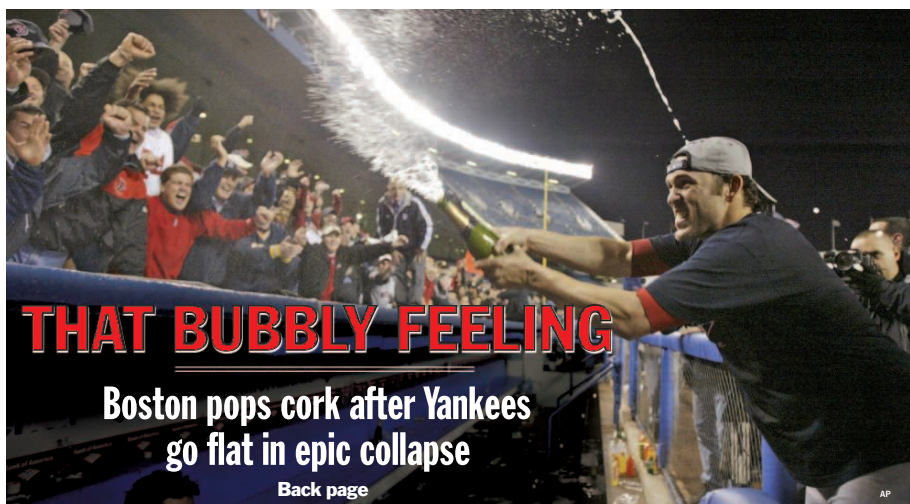
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004

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Military: Captain requested to step down; 'not suspected of misconduct'

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### THAT BUBBLY FEELING

**Boston pops cork after Yankees  
go flat in epic collapse**

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Red Sox head to World Series

The Sox's Doug Mientkiewicz sprays champagne on fans after Boston defeated New York 10-3 in Game 7 of the American League championship series on Wednesday at Yankee Stadium. Trailing three games to none, the Red Sox staged an unprecedented comeback, winning four straight.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Martha Stewart case:** Lawyers for Martha Stewart told a federal appeals court in New York that she suffered a "fundamentally unfair" trial at the hands of prosecutors who incorrectly suggested she was accused of insider trading.

With the celebrity homemaker already serving time at a West Virginia prison, the lawyer asked the appeals court to overturn her conviction for lying to federal investigators about a \$100 stock sale. Stewart was never charged with insider trading — only with deceiving investigators. But the appeals brief, made public Thursday, argues prosecutors and the trial judge kept the jury from understanding the difference.

**Peterson trial:** Testimony in Scott Peterson's murder trial in Redwood City, Calif., turned to reported sightings of his wife as the defense attacked prosecution claims that the pregnant schoolteacher stopped walking the couple's dog long before she vanished.

Kevin Bertalotto, an investigator with the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office, testified Wednesday about a tip he received in April 2003 from a man who claimed to have seen Laci walking the dog around the neighborhood about two weeks before she went missing.

Bertalotto was due back on the stand Thursday.

**Alabama segregation:** Civil rights activists say racism is behind opposition to a local measure that would strike language requiring segregated schools and poll taxes from the Alabama Constitution.

Opposition chief Justice Roy Moore and other critics contend the measure is a backdoor attempt to raise taxes for Muslims. But leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said Wednesday their claims were a "smoke screen" to hide a racist agenda for political gain.

**Gotti radio dispute:** Lawyers for John A. "Junior" Gotti want a radio host to stop trashing him on a drive-time morning show.

The host, Curtis Sliwa, once was the target of a failed hit allegedly arranged by the son of late mob boss John Gotti. On Wednesday, defense attorneys told a federal judge that Sliwa's on-air rants against their client could poison a jury in his racketeering case.

Each day, Sliwa "denigrates Mr. Gotti," attorney Jeffrey Lichtman said at a pretrial hearing in Manhattan.

Told about the bid to silence him, Sliwa was defiant.

"That's a new approach," he said. "Previously, they tried to kill me."

**Medicinal marijuana doctor:** A doctor who signed a list of all medical marijuana cards in Oregon lost his license to practice medicine Wednesday, in what medical regulators and advocates for the drug said marked the first such case in the nine states where marijuana is legal as a medicine.

Dr. Phillip Leveque, 81, a Molalla osteopath, was placed on probation in 2002 for giving medical marijuana applications for patients he had not examined in person and whose medical history he had not reviewed.

Leveque's practice was limited to examining patients for medical marijuana applications, often at large gatherings at hotels around the state.

Leveque said he has signed some 4,000 applications, 33 percent of the 12,000 cards issued in the state.

**Absentee voting:** A federal judge in Harrisburg, Pa., refused Wednesday to order new absentee ballots for military families and overseas voters and give those voters until after the Nov. 2 election to return them because of confusion over Ralph Nader's status.

U.S. District Judge Yvette Kane said the



**Japan typhoon:** Two men held tight to a tree as passengers sitting on the top of a bus are guided by a rescue worker, left, after floodwaters stranded the vehicle Thursday in Maizuru, Japan. Typhoon Tokage killed at least 63 people and left at least 25 missing.

U.S. Justice Department, which sought the order, failed to show how the voters were disenfranchised by casting their votes on ballots that include Nader's now-stricken name. Kane also said the task of preparing, distributing and counting amended ballots that exclude Nader could be even more harmful to the counties that run elections in the state.

**Hacking autopsy:** The remains of Lori Hacking, the woman believed to have been killed by her husband and her body dumped in the trash, were so broken up by the time police recovered them from a landfill that authorities may never know how she died.

Autopsy findings released Wednesday confirmed Hacking's identity from dental records, but said experts couldn't determine the cause of death.

The remains were in so many pieces the medical examiner couldn't find a bullet hole in the skull, Deputy District Attorney Bob Stott said Wednesday.

**Priest abuse case:** A lawyer for defrocked Massachusetts priest Paul Shanley asked a judge Wednesday to dismiss rape and indecent assault charges against his client, a central figure in the clergy sex abuse scandal, after one of his accusers failed to appear in court.

The alleged victim, now 35, says Shanley molested him when he was a child, but he did not remember the abuse until about three years ago, when the scandal first broke in Boston.

The man's failure to attend a pretrial hearing in Middlesex Superior Court is the latest in a series of possible setbacks to the prosecution's case against Shanley.

### World

**North Korea aid:** The head of the United Nations food agency on Thursday asked South Korea to donate more food to ease shortages in its impoverished northern neighbor.

James Morris, chief of the World Food Program, also sought donations for Afghanistan and Iran when he met with Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon, said Gerald Bourke, a WFP spokesman.

The WFP, the world's largest humanitarian agency, relies on donor contributions to help alleviate the plight of more than 800

million hungry people around the world. In 2003, the Rome-based agency raised \$2.6 billion. South Korea donated \$70 million and was Asia's second-biggest donor after Japan, which provided \$129 million.

**Milosevic trial:** With his trial once again near an impasse, Slobodan Milosevic urged an appeals court Thursday in The Hague, Netherlands, to dismiss his court-appointed lawyer and allow him to conduct his own defense against war crimes charges.

The former Yugoslav president told a five-judge appeals panel at the U.N. tribunal that medical reports were wrong when they showed he is in danger of a heart attack if he continued representing himself, and his right to self-defense is fundamental.

**Sharon support:** Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has betrayed his Likud Party, a long-time senior ally wrote to thousands of party faithful Thursday, but the rebuke over the Gaza withdrawal was unlikely to prevent parliament approval of the plan next week.

Sharon can count on the support of at least 66 legislators in the 120-member parliament, including more than two dozen from moderate opposition parties, according to a count published Thursday in the Yediot Ahronot daily.

**Human cloning debate:** The highly contentious issue of cloning is back on the U.N. agenda, with support among member states for a treaty banning human cloning but divisions over the use of human embryos for medical research.

The U.N. General Assembly's legal committee begins a two-day debate Thursday that will focus on rapid resolutions: Costa Rica's draft calls for a treaty that would ban all cloning while Belgium's draft calls for a treaty that would ban the cloning of babies but allow countries to decide on using embryos for research, which many scientists believe may lead to new treatments for diseases.

**Sudan peace talks:** Sudanese government and rebel representatives were due to restart peace talks Thursday in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region, officials said. But one rebel group said the talks would be delayed.

Nigerian Foreign Ministry official Florentina Ukonko said the talks, brokered by the African Union, would start as scheduled Thursday afternoon even though several high-ranking delegates had not arrived by midmorning.

### Military

**Navy sonar dispute:** A federal appeals court in San Francisco decided Wednesday that marine mammals have no standing to sue to stop the U.S. Navy from using sonar.

In upholding a lower court decision, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said the world's cetaceans — whales, porpoises and dolphins — have no standing under the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act or the National Environmental Policy Act.

### Business

**Enron scandal:** Former Enron Corp. CEO Jeffrey Skilling's legal team wants federal prosecutors to get specific about documents, potential witnesses, and other information that could be helpful to his defense against conspiracy, fraud and insider trading charges.

Prosecutors say they've already turned over "virtually all documents" to Skilling, and his demands exceed the government's obligation to provide specific information to be used to exonerate him. The government also says Skilling is "well positioned" to review such information given his high-profile legal team.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# Commander of 343rd is relieved of duty

By JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

The commander of the 343rd Quartermaster Company was relieved of duty Thursday, one week after a platoon of her soldiers refused to conduct a resupply mission in Iraq, according to military officials.

The supply commander "asked to be relieved and her request was granted," said Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a spokesman for the coalition forces in Iraq. The name of the officer, a captain, was withheld for privacy reasons.

Up to 19 troops in the company, a Reserve unit from Rock Hill, S.C., are under investigation after they failed to report for a company muster at a logistics outpost in Tallil on Oct. 13.

"The outgoing commander is not suspected of misconduct and the move has nothing to do with the guilt or innocence of anyone involved," said Boylan.

Boylan declined to confirm or deny reports that senior leaders in the 343rd's parent command had lost faith in her ability to lead. CNN, quoting unnamed Pentagon officials, said the captain was relieved because of a loss of faith in her ability to lead

## Military says captain of unit that refused resupply mission requested to step down

following the breakdown in discipline among her troops.

"I don't know if that's accurate," said Boylan, "but if that's the case, it's between her and the command."

Boylan said the captain has been reassigned to a new position "commensurate with her rank and experience." The name of her replacement was not released.

Meanwhile, investigations into the incident are ongoing.

Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, commander of the Fort Hood, Texas-based 13th Corps Support Command — the parent headquarters for the quartermaster company — told reporters on Sunday that he had ordered two informal inquiries into the incident.

One will focus on whether criminal prosecution should be pursued, while the other will explore the reason behind the soldiers' refusal.

"They are at Tallil now collecting interviews and taking statements from the soldiers involved," said Boylan.

Troops have told family members that they were being sent on a "suicide mission" and complained of old, broken-down equipment. Chambers acknowledged that the platoon's fleet of big-rig fuel haulers was not equipped with armor plating designed to protect against roadside bombs and ambushes, the favored tactic of insurgents in Iraq.

Chambers' spokesman, Maj. Richard Spiegel, said it's unclear when the investigations would be completed, but added that the general has "emphasized quality over speed."

In Washington, meanwhile, a dozen Democrats have penned a letter to the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., seeking oversight hearings on incidents ranging

from the 343rd Quartermaster Company to continued reports of troops insufficiently equipped to operate in Iraq.

"While we understand that the Department of Defense has taken steps to address equipment shortfalls, we are concerned that ... there are still shortages of vital, life-saving equipment urgently needed by our men and women in harm's way," reads a portion of the letter.

While Hunter deems the issue important, it is unlikely the committee can squeeze in additional hearings during Congress' brief return to Capitol Hill in November, said Harald Stavenas, Hunter's press secretary. Much of the members' time will be spent debating HR 10, the so-called "9/11 bill" of recommendations from the 9/11 Commission to fight terror.

"We have and will continue to conduct robust oversight and hearings to ensure the safety of our troops," Stavenas said. "Our work is done around the clock and year-round — not just when Congress is in session." The issue of hearings likely will be taken up when the 109th Congress returns in January.

Pentagon reporter Sandra Jontz E-mail contributed  
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## Gunmen fire on busload of women in Iraq, killing one

By TINI TRAN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen opened fire Thursday on a bus carrying female employees of Iraqi Airways to the Baghdad airport, killing one woman and wounding 14 others, an airline official said.

U.S. commanders have spoken of a new offensive ahead of Iraq's crucial elections in January aimed at suppressing insurgents who control a number of central Sunni Muslim cities, particularly the stronghold of Fallujah, where peace negotiations with city leaders have broken down.

Fallujah leaders on Thursday called on Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's government to force a halt to the frequent U.S. airstrikes in the city. A day earlier, a senior Sunni cleric, Sheikh Harith al-Duri, urged Iraqis to boycott January's elections if the Americans launch an all-out attack on the city.

In other violence, a series of strong explosions were heard shortly after sundown in central Baghdad, but the cause of the blasts could not be immediately

determined. Sirens blared in the Green Zone shortly after at least five explosions were heard, indicating that the target could have been the U.S.-controlled international district on the western bank of the Tigris river.

Hospital officials said Thursday that a pair of suicide car bombings in Samarra killed 10 Iraqi civilians and injured 14 others. Earlier reports put the death toll at one.

Residents said the twin blasts Wednesday afternoon ruined five shops and that sporadic gunfire broke out afterward, damaging several vehicles in Samarra, a city 60 miles north of Baghdad, that U.S. and Iraqi forces retook earlier this month from insurgents.

Iraqi officials have cited Samarra as an example of how U.S. and government forces can take control of restive cities which became insurgent strongholds after the Americans transferred sovereignty back to the Iraqis on June 28.

Meanwhile, the husband of the kidnapped director of CARE International's operation in Iraq made a plea in Baghdad for her release, saying she has spent her

life helping Iraqis.

Margaret Hassan, a British-Irish-Iraqi national, was abducted on her way to work early Tuesday by gunmen who blocked her route and dragged the driver and a companion from the car, said her husband Taha Hassan, 41, of Baghdad.

"Release my wife. She's Iraqi, she's working for a humanitarian organization and I ask you to release her," Ali Hassan said, addressing the kidnappers, at a press conference.

The attack on the airline workers occurred on the main road linking the airport with central Baghdad, an airline official said on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. State Department has described travel between central Baghdad and the airport as "particularly dangerous."

Hassan

## GI sentenced to 8 years for Abu Ghraib prison abuse

By TINI TRAN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The highest ranking soldier charged in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal was sentenced Thursday to eight years in prison for abusing inmates.

Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, 38, an Army reservist from the prison scandal was sentenced Thursday to eight years in prison for abusing inmates, for a reduction in rank, forfeiture of pay and a dishonorable discharge.

The sentencing came a day after he pleaded guilty to eight counts of abusing and humiliating Iraqi detainees.

It was the longest prison sentence yet in connection with the scandal that broke worldwide in April with the publication of photos and video that showed U.S. soldiers abusing naked Iraqis in the prison on the western outskirts of Baghdad.

Frederick — a military policeman and former Virginia corrections officer — acknowledged his part in the scandal, admitting that he hooked up wires on hook wires on the hands of a detainee who was told he would be electrocuted if he fell off a box and that he forced prisoners to masturbate.

But Frederick also blamed his chain of command, telling the court Wednesday that military intelligence officers ordered prisoners to be publicly stripped and degraded.

He testified that he was given no training or support in supervising detainees and only learned of regulations against mistreatment after the abuses occurred between October and December last year. He said that when he brought issues up with his command, "they told me to do what MI told me to do," referring to military intelligence.



AP file photo

U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, in this 2003 photo taken in Kuwait, was sentenced Thursday to eight years in prison for abusing inmates at Abu Ghraib.

Defense Counsel Gary Myers on Thursday called the sentence "excessive" and said he would seek review.

"Punish him yes. But please try to understand the defense's point of view that there is corporate responsibility," Myers said. "We discovered that he has no abhorrent tendencies."

Army Prosecutor Major Michael Holley told the court it was a simple case of right and wrong.

"He's an adult and capable of telling, as we learned, the difference between right and wrong. How much training do you need to learn that it's wrong to force a man to masturbate?" he said.

"I was wrong about what I did and I shouldn't have done it," Frederick told the judge, Army Col. James Pohl. "I knew it was wrong at the time because I knew it was a form of abuse."

He pleaded guilty to eight counts of conspiracy, dereliction of duty, mistreatment of detainees, assault and committing an indecent act.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,103 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 1 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bul-

garia, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq ended, 965 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ None reported.

The latest identification reported by the Defense Department:

■ None reported.

# Home sweet home at LSA Anaconda

Though attacked often, sprawling military base offers most of the amenities of home

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — The afternoon sun shimmers off the water as soldiers lob a volleyball around the pool.

Nearby, others break a sweat in the indoor racquetball court. In the evening, a newly released blockbuster plays at the theater. Don't forget the popcorn and Jujyfruits.

Of one of the largest and busiest military bases in Iraq, servicemembers assigned to — or fortunate enough to visit — Logistics Support Area Anaconda have the closest thing to home in a combat zone.

Blessed with many pre-existing luxuries, such as an Olympic-size pool and movie theater, the former Iraqi air base has become a semiparadise in the desert.

Never mind that it's also one of the most-often attacked bases, receiving mortar and rocket hits almost daily: Everyone loves the chance to visit.

"This exceeded all expectations I had of a combat zone," said Spc. Joseph Riecke, who recently arrived in Iraq with the 161st Infantry Battalion of the 81st Brigade Combat Team.

During their short stay in Anaconda before heading out to a forward operating base, Riecke and his fellow soldiers enjoyed the colossal 24-hour gym with basketball and racquetball courts, the pool, and the cuisine in one of five cathedral dining facilities.

"The food here is better than Fort Lewis [Wash.]," Riecke said. "I'm not going to call it a vacation, but this is nice."

Every day, more and more troops living at Anaconda move from tent cities into air-conditioned trailers. Every day, more of the pre-existing buildings used for housing get running water and indoor plumbing.

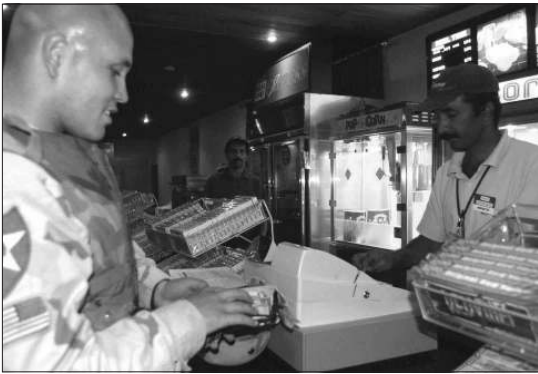
And every day, work continues on some of the luxuries to come: a 20-megawatt power generator, water and waste water treatment plants and clean-air incinerator that will turn the base into something of a normal place.

It's a far cry from one year ago, when everyone lived in tents, ate in tents and scurried across compounds to field latrines.

"It was pretty austere, really," said Lt. Col. Ed Patterson, Army director of the Department of Public Works and team leader of Facility Engineer Team 15, the body responsible for much of the reconstruction.

When U.S. forces first arrived at the air base, military leaders recognized the strategic value of a logistics hub and major airfield north of Baghdad. By mid-2003, about 7,000 people lived in tents around the airfield.

As the base grew, trailers sprouted including long-awaited ablution units bearing flush toilets and real showers. A power grid, run by generators, was established. Morale facilities grew.



PHOTOS BY JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Above: Spc. George Romero, with the 512 Maintenance Company from Mannheim, Germany, buys drinks from the concessionaires at LSA Anaconda's movie theater. Partially built by Iraqis, the theater plays first-run movies and sells the same movie goodies offered at home, such as Jujyfruits. Below: Servicemembers enjoy a game of basketball in the Olympic-size pool, one of two pools at the base. Amenities such as the pool and a modern gym help create a slice of home in Iraq. Right: Soldiers take a break to play volleyball in the pool.



And more and more troops moved in.

About 25,000 servicemembers and civilians now call it home. Anaconda has become a small city, with a fire department, police department, mayor's office, airport, theater, bus system and education center.

"For the last year the focus has been quality of life," said Maj. Steven Smith, executive officer of the Garrison Support Unit, 852nd Rear Area Operations Center, which runs the mayor's cell. "If you have a good quality of life for people, it builds morale, it builds esprit."

The troops and civilians working at the base seem appreciative.

"It's a lot nicer than I expected," said Angel Cuevas, a civilian working for L3 Communications. "We're at war, and we've got a gym."

The amenities provide a break for the thousands living there as well as hundreds more who visit daily to pick up supplies for forward operating bases around the top half of the country.

Capt. Bob Ohl, commander of Company B, 336th Military Police Battalion, makes sure that his soldiers picking up supplies for their tiny operating base nearby get a chance to unwind at Anaconda before returning.

Soldiers volunteer to escort convoys on their day off because it



means a few hours at the pool, gym or possibly theater, he said.

"We don't have anything like this. It's definitely a morale boost," Ohl said. "We try to give our guys a break and give them time under here."

Anaconda's comforts, however, are tempered by daily attacks and long waits indoors during code red alerts. Five soldiers and one civilian have died since January from indirect fire.

The theater may be nice, but sandbags still line the windows

## Base history

What's in a name?

Balad Southeast Air Base was one of many Iraqi air force installations created in the 1970s. It was heavily damaged in the Persian Gulf War and never returned to its former glory. Coalition forces took over the facility during Operation Iraqi Freedom and began using it as an air base and later as a logistics hub.

The U.S. Air Force retained the name Balad in its nomenclature. Balad Air Base. The Army, however, calls the same installation Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

— Stars and Stripes

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# Report: Army told to draw up plans for shorter tours

Stars and Stripes

The acting secretary of the Army has told the service to begin drawing up plans to shorten the 12-month tour lengths of soldiers sent to Iraq and Afghanistan, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

The Oct. 8 memo from Les Brownlee, the acting Army secretary, makes clear that these reductions would not be taken until the insurgency in Iraq diminishes and the capabilities of Iraqi security forces improves, the Times wrote.

"As we continue to develop Iraqi security forces in both size and capabilities, the opportunity presents itself to address both the size of our committed forces and the tour lengths of those soldiers assigned," Brownlee wrote in the memo to Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, the Times reported.

A copy of the memo, which states that "it is important that these plans be available for implementation when the security conditions and the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces might enable us to do so," was provided to the Times by a senior Army official.

Army personnel officers, as well as those representing the Army Reserve and National Guard, say their ability to recruit and retain soldiers will erode unless combat tours are shortened, perhaps to six or nine months.

At the same time, Army war planners have significant concerns that the Army, at its current size and configuration, cannot meet projected requirements for Iraq and Afghanistan unless active-duty and reserve troops spend 12 months on the ground there.

## Iraq violence may keep monitors from election

By HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi authorities fear that the country's security crisis will discourage international monitors from coming here for the January election — a development that could cast doubt on the legitimacy of the crucial vote.

An American official familiar with election planning said the U.S. State Department has been unable to find nongovernmental organizations or foreign governments willing to send experts to monitor the election — largely because of security concerns.

Those fears were heightened by the kidnapping this week of CARE International's director for Iraq, Margaret Hassan. A British-Iraqi national, Hassan has lived here for 30 years and stayed on when other international workers fled following the upsurge of bombings and kidnappings.

The election is considered a critical step toward establishing democracy after decades of

under Saddam Hussein. Voters will select a 275-member assembly that will draft a constitution, which, if ratified, will provide the legal foundation for a second general election by the end of next year.

The presence of international monitors would help convince skeptics that the outcome reflected the will of Iraq's 25 million people, of whom about half are eligible voters.

With a Sunni Muslim insurgency raging and foreigners at risk, fears for the safety of international monitors are real. In Brussels, Belgium, a European Union official said the 25-nation community would like to help with the election, but doesn't know how. European nations have provided monitors for elections in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

"Certainly, we know that the security situation will prevent many international monitors from coming," said Farid Ayar, spokesman for the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq. "We have arrived at a crucial

stage of the preparations and we are trying to overcome a lot of difficulties. We have come a long way." The commission said it won't take responsibility for the security of election monitors and that they will not be permitted to use any of commission's resources, like vehicles. The monitors, it added, will be expected to write a final report but must back their conclusions with evidence.

U.S. and Iraqi officials had hoped the United Nations would assume a major role in helping Iraq plan and organize the election, a role the global organization has played in numerous countries emerging from tyranny or civil strife.

The United Nations is training Iraqis outside Iraq to return here and train other Iraqis in how to run an election. But U.N. chief Kofi Annan has imposed a ceiling of 35 on the number of international staffers permitted in Iraq because of security.

Annan has said he had tried to raise international troops for a brigade to protect U.N. workers in Iraq so more staffers could be sent, but hasn't succeeded.

## Army Reserve unit to train Iraqis under new program

By SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — By early December, the U.S. Army Reserve 98th Division (Training) will have its full complement of 700 soldiers in Iraq with the primary mission of expediting the training of the Iraqi military, the division commanding general said.

The soldiers' mission is twofold: simultaneously train the Iraqi noncommissioned officer and officer corps, "training the 98th Division (Training) specialized training such as transportation, engineering and medical procedures to Iraqi troops with basic combat experience, Maj. Gen. Bruce Robinson said.

The 98th Division, headquartered in Rochester, N.Y., will be the first to put into action the Army's new Foreign Army Training Assistance Command, created to overcome the difficulties coalition units now have in getting the Iraqi army up and running, Robinson said.

"This is a significant step in helping the Iraqis become self-sufficient in their own defense and security operations," Robinson said.

However, the command has no baseline of length of time or number of Iraqi soldiers to be trained, making it difficult to measure success.

The time line will be dictated by the needs and desires expressed by the leaders of the Iraqi army, the quality of the soldiers and their ability to learn, Robinson said. The U.S. trainers will mostly work out of six training installations throughout Iraq with a goal of training more than 250,000 members of the security forces.

The 98th Division unit has all primarily from the New England states, New York and New Jersey, will be deployed for 12 months "boots on ground," Robinson said.

The 98th Division out of Richmond, Va., is on tap to take over if the U.S. Army needs to continue the Foreign Army Training Assistance Command in Iraq beyond the 98th's one-year mark, he said.

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Britain's Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon, seen in this Tuesday photo, told the House of Commons on Thursday that an armored battlegroup from the First Battalion Black Watch would move from their base in southern Iraq to free up U.S. troops for a stepped-up assault on insurgents.

## Britain agrees to troop redeployment in Iraq

By ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair's government agreed Thursday to meet a U.S. request and redeploy a battalion of 850 British troops into volatile central Iraq, despite strong opposition from lawmakers.

Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon told the House of Commons an armored battlegroup from the First Battalion Black Watch would move from their base in southern Iraq, to free up U.S. troops for a stepped-up assault on insurgents.

Hoon said the British troops, complete with support units of medics, signalers and engineers, would redeploy within "Multinational Force West" — an area to the west of Baghdad where Sunni insurgents have been carrying out daily attacks on U.S. troops and Iraqis.

Hoon said the mission would be for a "limited and specified period of time, lasting weeks rather than months." But he declined to give further details of the "location, duration or specifics of the mission" for security reasons.

The Black Watch would remain under U.K. operational command, Hoon said, adding there

were no plans to raise British troop numbers within Iraq.

"After careful evaluation, the chiefs of staff have advised me that U.K. forces are able to undertake the proposed operation, that there is a compelling military operational justification for doing so, and that it entails a militarily acceptable level of risk for U.K. forces," Hoon said.

U.S. military commanders made the request on Oct. 10, and British ministers have stressed the move is purely a military matter.

Britain has some 8,500 troops in Iraq, operating around the southern port city of Basra.

Sending British soldiers into the more dangerous U.S.-controlled sector carries a risk of higher casualties and is politically sensitive for Blair. Sixty-eight British soldiers have been killed in Iraq, compared with more than 1,000 U.S. troops.

Gen. John McColl, the senior British commander in Iraq, was quoted in The Times newspaper saying more British troops could be sent to the country to boost security ahead of the Iraqi elections.

Hoon dismissed the report. "Can I emphasize that there are no plans to send a further 1,300 troops to Iraq as suggested this morning," he said.

*Hoon said the mission would be for a "limited and specified period of time, lasting weeks rather than months."*

# Reservist: 'We are not cowards'

## Soldier who refused mission says decision wasn't made as group

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A soldier from an Army Reserve unit whose members refused to deliver fuel along a dangerous route in Iraq says he and others did not act out of fear, as the soldier's father has said.

"We are not cowards," Sgt. Major Coates told The Charlotte Observer for a report published Thursday. "The way that things come out, it makes us look like that. ... Our soldiers have run missions all over Iraq; we're never scared to go on a mission."

Coates was among 19 members of a platoon from the 343rd Quartermaster Company, based in Rock Hill, S.C., who last week refused to transport supplies from Tallil air base near Nasiriyah to Taji north of Baghdad.

He called the newspaper Wednesday, saying he wanted to correct statements made in interviews by his father, John Coates. The specialist said his father may have gotten details wrong because he was upset about what happened.

Relatives have said that the soldiers' trucks were broken down, that they lacked a proper armed escort and that the fuel they were to deliver was contaminated.

Army officials dispute that account and say they are investigating. The reservists could face courts-martial.

Coates said he was wearing body armor during the mission, though his father said he was not.

Coates, a water treatment specialist, also said he was properly trained to deploy to Iraq but acknowledged that when he arrived, officials "did not tell us we were infantry now," as his father had said.

And he said his father was wrong when he said soldiers banded together in refusing the order.

"We did not form a group on the decision we made," Coates said. "Everyone made their own individual decision to do what we thought best."

If soldiers acted as a group with the military considers a mutiny, they could receive a more severe punishment than if they acted individually.

John Coates was out of town Thursday and unavailable for comment. Maj. Coates' stepmother, Stephanie Parks, said from their home in Mount Holly, N.C.

Parks said the couple believes soldiers are now getting the equipment they need to do their jobs safely.

"We're just satisfied with the way things are going," she said.

Coates declined to comment about whether he was mistreated by military authorities, as some relatives have alleged.

"I'm serving my time to my country because I love America," he said. "If the leaders do their part, I do my part."

Parks said her stepson was detained at gunpoint for up to 18 hours but has said nothing about further discipline. "He's still in Iraq, I guess, still working," she said. "(He's) saying it's better than it is."



Pat McCook, left, talks with Jackie Butler on Wednesday, in Jackson, Miss. The soldiers in Iraq who refused to go on a fuel convoy because of concerns over the safety of their vehicles won a partial victory for other troops who might be put in harm's way, McCook and Butler, the wives of two of the soldiers, said.

## Wives say their husbands' actions saved others' lives

By HOLBROOK MOHR

The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The decision by commanders to add armor to more military vehicles gives a "partial victory" to the soldiers in Iraq who refused to go on a fuel convoy because of safety concerns — and helped save other troops who might be put in harm's way, wives of two of the soldiers said Wednesday.

"The military has already started to work on the vehicles and admitted, yes, the vehicles didn't have armor," Pat McCook said.

"It's a partial victory."

Sgt. Larry McCook was among at least 17 members of the 343rd Army Reserve Quartermaster Company based in Rock Hill, S.C., who refused to transport supplies last week from an air base near Nasiriyah to a city north of Baghdad.

Five members of the platoon including McCook were assigned to different units and are awaiting word on what punishment, if any, they might face.

But Brig. Gen. James Chambers, the unit's commander, has also since ordered

the 343rd to refrain from further missions until its vehicles are inspected. Chambers also said the Army is adding steel armor plating on unarmed vehicles and upgrading maintenance.

Jackie Butler, whose husband, 44-year-old Staff Sgt. Michael Butler, also was reassigned for disobeying the order, said her husband was only doing what he was trained to do — survive. The Gulf War veteran with 24 years of service would not have refused the order without a compelling reason, she said.

"He was at that point that he didn't have a choice. It's been going on for too long," she said. "Even though he knew what was going to happen to him, in his mind he's saying, 'At least other soldiers over there will get the equipment they need to go and do their job.'"

The mission was carried out by other soldiers from the 343rd, which has at least 120 soldiers, the military said.

Both wives said their soldier husbands still don't know what punishment they face.

"I just want to wake up and it be over," Jackie Butler said.

## GI jailed for going AWOL

A soldier based in Kitzingen, Germany, who failed to return to Iraq after his midweek leave has been sentenced to 178 days in military prison, according to a case summary prepared by the Task Force Danger Staff Judge Advocate.

Spc. Alvin Collins, 23, of the 121st Signal Battalion, pleaded guilty to a single count of absence without leave at a special court-martial in Tikrit, Iraq, on Oct. 13. Assigned to Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baquba, Iraq, since his unit deployed to the Middle East in February, he traveled home to West Virginia for 15 days of rest-and-recuperation leave.

Collins was due to return to Iraq by June 3, according to the case summary. But his attorney, Capt. Kurt Gilbert, said Collins' family convinced him to stay home. He didn't return to Iraq until Sept. 1.

Besides the jail time, Judge (Col.) James Pohl ordered Collins reduced to the lowest enlisted rank and handed him a bad-conduct discharge. His sentence will become final after it is reviewed by Task Force Danger authorities.

## 2 soldiers sentenced

Two Task Force Danger soldiers found with hashish in their Iraq barracks rooms have been sentenced to prison terms, according to case summaries prepared by the task force's staff judge advocate.

Pvt. Edwin Escudero-Betancourt, 21, and Pvt. Jeffrey Vehovic, 25 — both from Company A of the German-based 29th Signal Support Battalion — pleaded guilty to a single charge of drug possession.

According to the case summary, Escudero-Betancourt found the hashish in a box of watches he had purchased from an Iraqi man who approached him outside his base near Tikrit on June 27. He hid the drug in his portable housing unit and later sold some to Vehovic.

On July 10, military police with drug-sniffing dogs found the hashish during a search of Company A's barracks.

The military judge, Col. James Pohl, sentenced Vehovic to nine months and Escudero-Betancourt to seven months. Both also will receive bad-conduct discharges.

## Darfur airlift mission

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Thirty U.S. Air Force members from Europe arrived Thursday in Kigali, Rwanda, to prepare for a two-week aerial mission of Rwandan peacekeepers to the Darfur region of Sudan.

Two C-130 transport planes and about 120 airmen from Ramstein Air Base's 86th Airlift Wing and 435th Air Base Wing are expected to arrive in Kigali to begin the airlift in the next several days, according to a U.S. Air Forces in Europe news release issued Thursday.

The Air Force planes will carry Rwandan troops to Darfur as part of an African Union peacekeeping mission in the region. Eventually, 3,500 African peacekeepers from Rwanda and Nigeria will bolster the monitoring force in Darfur.

From staff reports

## GI in Iraq gets 8 months in drug and alcohol case

By STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

A 1st Infantry Division soldier serving in Iraq was sentenced to eight months in prison after pleading guilty to drug- and alcohol-related charges, according to a case summary from the Task Force Danger Staff Judge Advocate.

Pvt. Robert White, 26, of the 201st Forward Support Battalion, admitted possession, use and transfer of both alcohol and the prescription drug benzhexol HCl, as well as making a false official statement and fraudu-

lent possession of a military identification card.

Benzhexol HCl is an anti-Parkinson's medication that is hallucinogenic if too much is taken. It is widely abused in Iraq, according to the case summary.

White was captured as a guard since March at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, the headquarters of the 1st ID's 3rd Brigade Combat Team in Baquba, Iraq.

The summary says as part of his duties, he would sometimes seize alcohol and benzhexol HCl from Iraqis entering the base. Then he would sell them to other soldiers or use them himself.

When applying for a new ID card in May, White — then an E-4 — told the clerk he was eligible for promotion to E-5. When he was caught, he lied about it to investigators, according to the summary.

Before his court-martial Oct. 14 in Tikrit, White had previously been reduced to the lowest enlisted rank as part of nonjudicial punishment for the theft of a government computer. Besides the prison time, Judge (Col.) James Pohl also handed White a bad-conduct discharge for the latest charges.

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# In college class, Marine puts face on war

## Iraq veteran's perspective gains dissenters' respect

BY MARYCLAIRE DALE

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Late on a Friday afternoon, as other college students get an early start to their weekend, about 100 students gathered in a ninth-floor classroom at Temple University to hear a young Marine officer discuss his time in Iraq.

Midway through his graphic tale of hunting and killing "terrorists," students started to interrupt.

Wouldn't some call them "freedom fighters"? Can the United States ever pull out of Iraq? Does the Marine support President Bush's re-election? Thus began the latest "teach-in" at the North Philadelphia campus, a weekly, no-credit session led by a Vietnam-era protester-turned-college history professor.

The sessions, which started three years ago as an offshoot to professor Ralph Young's "Dissent in America" course, invite students to challenge views — in-

cluding their own — on issues from war to feminism to photojournalism. Friday's topic kept students going for more than three hours.

"Even if I have somewhat of a left-wing view myself, I don't want to impose it. I just want them to look at the historical past and basically make their own conclusions," Young said.

The teach-ins came full circle with the visit Friday by 1st Lt. J. David Fleming, 29, who took Young's "Dissent" course at a Penn State satellite campus in 1998 and sent occasional e-mails during two tours of Iraq.

"I had these images of what combat was going to be like," said Fleming, who enlisted at 17. "I wanted to go kill somebody. I wanted to go to war, to answer the question for myself, 'Hey, do I have what it takes?'"

Years later, after time out for college and retraining as a Marine officer, Fleming finally saw war firsthand. The view was not so romantic.

"It's survival," he said of his up-close battles with the enemy. "I'm doing everything in my power to survive and so is he."

Several students challenged his use of the term "terrorist" for all manner of Iraqi foe. Terrorists kill civilians; Fleming was a legitimate military target, some argued.

"In my world, that's semantics," Fleming replied, unoffended.

A week earlier, a teach-in on the motive for Bush's foreign policy inspired a lively discussion from the group, which included students from Japan, Turkey, Egypt and other countries, Young said.

For student Alison Macrina, Fleming's talk didn't change her opposition to the Iraq war, but did broaden her perspective.

"I liked him, and usually my experiences with people (who support the war) ... is not always so familiar or so friendly," said Macrina, 20, a junior and liberal activist from Collingswood, N.J.



1st Lt. J. David Fleming speaks Friday about his Iraq experience to a room of about 100 students during a "teach in," a weekly, no-credit session led by Ralph Young, a Vietnam-era protester-turned-college history professor at Temple University in Philadelphia.



An Iraqi worker climbs down a date palm tree after picking its fruits Saturday on one of the private farms in Baghdad. Dates could again become a big asset to the economy of Iraq, once ranked the world's top producer and exporter of the fruit.

## Iraq puts faith in dates

### Hindered by war, industry could help restore economy

BY DENIS D. GRAY

The Associated Press

BAQOUBA, Iraq — Thick groves of soaring date palms — ideal launching pads for roadside bombs and mortars — hug a highway where insurgents have struck at American convoys and Iraqi security forces again and again.

In past conflicts, the U.S. military probably would have turned such trees into stumps. In combating communist guerrillas in Vietnam, Americans stripped away such foliage by spraying herbicides.

But in an effort to win hearts and minds in Iraq, U.S. troops are leaving the date palms alone.

"If you went in and destroyed palm groves, you'd be doing the same thing as Saddam Hussein. We don't want to stoop to that level," said Capt. Michael Adams, who's involved with the aerial spraying of date palms, but this time with pesticides.

Dates could again become a big asset to the economy of Iraq, once ranked the world's top producer and exporter of the fruit, which is regarded as a national symbol with deep religious and historic roots.

But the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam's draining of vast southern marshes, U.N. sanctions and the most recent conflict have led to the industry's decline.

Farron Ahmed Hussein, a senior official in the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad, said production this year was expected to hover around 600,000 tons.

"This is rather low due to the bad security situation, the difficulties of moving from place to place and other obstacles," Hussein said in an interview.

But he said that with more crop dusting, fertilizer application and improvement in date palm culture, Iraq had the potential for boosting output to 1 million tons, thus regaining the world's No. 1 spot.

## Iraqi orphan who assisted troops starts new life in U.S.

BY JOE RUFF

The Associated Press

BOYS TOWN, Neb. — An Iraqi orphan credited with helping American troops capture insurgents in Baghdad started a new life Tuesday at a home for troubled youngsters.

Holding a plastic American flag on a stick, 16-year-old "Johnny" — the nickname U.S. soldiers gave him — said he was happy to be in the United States.

"Everything's OK," he said. "Real cool."

Soldiers in Baghdad encountered the boy living on the streets and discovered that he knew a lot about the people behind insurgent attacks in the city, said Lt. Col. Brian McKiernan, commander of the 1st Armored Division's 4-27 Field Artillery Unit.

McKiernan said Tuesday he took Johnny into the unit as a janitor in September 2003 and the boy learned some English. The boy eventually helped U.S. troops apprehend more than 40 insurgents and seize several weapons caches, McKiernan said.

"He came to identify with the soldiers and admire them," McKiernan said. "He is a unique individual with a lot of heart, very loyal."

After learning that his unit was going to be transferred to Germany, McKiernan contacted the home, Girls and Boys Town, about helping the boy. McKiernan feared Johnny could be targeted by insurgents for helping the Americans.

"I thought if we could give him a better lot in life, a fresh start, it would be worth it," McKiernan said.

Johnny arrived in the United States on Monday and ate a McDonald's hamburger for his first American meal. At Girls and Boys Town, he will live with a couple who have seven other orphans and two of their own children.



"Johnny," an Iraqi orphan whose real name is withheld for his safety and who is credited with helping American troops in Baghdad, is given a welcome hug Tuesday by an unidentified visitor at his new home, Girls and Boys Town, in Nebraska.

For privacy reasons, Girls and Boys Town would not disclose the boy's name.

Although Johnny had little schooling in Iraq, he said he wants to get a high school diploma and join the U.S. Army.

Boys Town was founded in 1917 by the Rev. Edward Flanagan — Father Flanagan — as a home for wayward boys. It was depicted in a 1938 movie starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney.

# DD: Top-priority troops get flu shots

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has received less than one-third of the vaccine it needs, but officials say they are working on a deal for more doses and pledge that all U.S. troops abroad, plus those preparing to go overseas, will get flu shots this fall.

Flu shots usually are mandatory for troops, as a matter of Pentagon policy, but not for the thousands of military dependents and military retirees who are entitled to Pentagon health benefits.

Immunization of troops abroad, particularly those in war

zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan or potential areas of conflict such as South Korea, is a high priority because the soldiers' loss to illness would hurt military readiness.

Normally all troops are required to get vaccinated. Those not deployed abroad, however, are a lower priority, so few of them will get flu shots this year, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

Before Chiron Corp., the Defense Department's main flu vaccine supplier, cut off shipments due to safety concerns, the Pentagon had planned to use 3 million doses this flu season.

Earlier this month it reduced that to 2.2 million, and it said Wednesday it expects to achieve that goal.

So far it has received 680,000 doses from its secondary supplier, Aventis Pasteur, which is scheduled to ship another 620,000 doses by the end of November, a Pentagon statement said.

That would still leave the Pentagon about 900,000 doses short of its goal, but it is working on an agreement with Aventis to close that gap.

The Pentagon also is pursuing a contract with the makers of the

nasal vaccine FluMist as a backup plan.

"We believe that we're well positioned to fully take care of and respond to the people who need the vaccine," Dr. William Winklenwerder, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said in an interview Wednesday.

He declined to elaborate, saying that later this week the Pentagon plans to announce a plan for flu vaccine distribution.

The Pentagon follows guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in determining which groups are most at risk. Aside from troops, the Pen-

tagon's top priority groups for immunization include military dependents age 6 months to 23 months and military retirees and dependents age 65 and older, as well as all women who will be pregnant during the flu season.

Troops who are not deployed abroad and not performing "critical operational" duties in the United States will not be vaccinated, the Pentagon said.

Of the 680,000 doses of vaccine received so far, about 480,000 doses have been delivered to the military services, mostly for U.S. troops in South Korea and the Central Command region, which includes Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar.

## U.S. prison in Afghanistan frees 17 men

BY AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Seventeen Afghans were released Thursday from a U.S. base at the center of an investigation into the deaths of two prisoners in custody, the International Red Cross said.

The men were freed from Bagram Air Base, north of the capital, and brought to Kabul, where Red Cross officials gave them enough money to cover trips home. An estimated 300 prisoners remain in the base.

Several of the men said they had been picked up some four months ago and interrogated repeatedly about the activities of Taliban rebels. But they spoke of no mistreatment in the time before they were released without charge.

Up to 28 U.S. soldiers face possible criminal charges in connection with the deaths of two prisoners at Bagram in December 2002, the Army announced last week.

The Army has said both victims suffered "blunt force injuries" and ruled both deaths as homicides.

Noor Wali Khan, a 37-year-old waiting at a Kabul bus station, said he was well-fed in his time at Bagram and showed reporters a copy of the Quran presented to him on his release.

"I wasn't beaten or threatened in the jail, the atmosphere was OK," he said. "We had two showers a week, but unfortunately the water was cold. That was a bit uncomfortable for us."

Khan said six American soldiers had arrested him



**Freed prisoner Mursalin, 82, arrives Thursday at a bus station in Kabul, Afghanistan. Seventeen Afghans were released Thursday from a U.S. military base in Bagram where two prisoners died in custody, officials with the International Red Cross said.**

about four months earlier during evening prayers at a mosque in Khost province, a former al-Qaida stronghold on the Pakistani border.

The military says it has made a string of changes to procedures at some 20 secretive military prisons across Afghanistan since the deaths at Bagram.

The top American commander here said recently that soldiers had stopped stripping prisoners for medical examinations — a grave humiliation in the eyes of many Afghans — and using dogs to scare them into cooperating.

An American general reviewed the prison network earlier this year, but his report has yet to be made public.

## Report: 1.7 million veterans are without health coverage

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly 1.7 million military veterans have no health insurance or access to government hospitals and clinics for veterans, according to a report Tuesday from a doctors' group that fears federally financed health care.

The number of uninsured veterans jumped by 235,000 since 2000, meaning they are losing health insurance at a faster rate than the general population, said Physicians for a National Health Program, which advocates a universal national health insurance program.

About 45 million Americans have no health insurance, including 5 million who lost coverage during the past four years, according to the Census Bureau.

"We're sending men and women off to war and yet the people who fought their wars can't get the basic things they need to go on with their lives afterward," said Dr. David Himmelstein, a Harvard Medical School professor and an author of the study.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said the Bush administration has opened 194 community health clinics for veterans and increased spending on medical care for veterans by 40 percent. "The president wants to make sure they get the care that they need and they deserve," Duffy said.

However, the report traced some of the increase to the Bush administration's decision last year to suspend health care services for higher-income veterans in order to reduce waiting times for doctor's appointments.

Other veterans reported that they were on waiting lists for appointments, could not afford co-payments or lived in communities with no veterans' facilities, the report said.

Like other Americans who are uninsured, most veterans have jobs. More than 85 percent worked within the past year, the report said.

Many uninsured veterans reported serious health problems, the report said. Between 20 percent and 30 percent said that they delayed or could not afford care, medications and eyeglasses.

More than 40 percent said they had no medical visits in the past year and two-thirds said they had no preventive care. Another 3.9 million people without health insurance live in veterans' households and also are ineligible for veterans' health care, the report said.

Almost all uninsured veterans served during the Vietnam war or more recently. Those who fought in World War II and the Korean War are older than 65, making them eligible for government health care through Medicare.

## No draft of doctors in the works, Pentagon health official says

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Pentagon's leading medical official said the Defense Department has no intention of drafting civilian doctors and medical professionals into the military, even as the Selective Service agency updates its draft contingency plan.

William Winklenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs, held a press briefing Wednesday to emphatically deny any draft plans, and said any such action "serves no useful purpose."

"There is no need for such a

contingency plan," Winklenwerder said. "The military health system today is ready and capable and has an incredible amount of capacity. The military system today is working remarkably well, working better than it has ever worked, and it would perform very effectively in the event of a national catastrophic event, even a large one."

The active-duty force has more than 120,000 full-time doctors, nurses, technicians and medics, with "many tens of thousands" more in the reserve component, Winklenwerder said.

In the hotly contested race for

the U.S. presidency, the controversial issue of the draft is repeated often, with both President Bush and Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry opposing it.

Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld repeatedly attempt to quash talk of a possible draft, calling it a politically motivated rumor. Kerry has said the draft is a possibility if Bush wins re-election because the force is stretched too thin.

The issue of a draft of medical professionals came about as the Selective Service System updated its plans.

The agency simply was following a 1987 law enacted by Con-

gress to have a plan in place in the event the president, with concurrence of Congress, decided to reinstate the draft and needed medical personnel to augment the active force, agency spokesman Richard Flahavan said.

The draft is merely a public relations and awareness plan of how the agency should go about informing medical professionals, Flahavan said. There is no database of identified personnel and medical professionals do not have to register with the selective, he said.

However, men between 18 and 25 are required by law to register with the agency, or as Flahavan

called, "cheap insurance" for the executive and legislative branches to have a database of potential conscripts in the "unlikely" event both branches signed off on a draft. "It's cheap insurance, a very small agency of less than 200 people who keep a list just in case, so we won't have to start from nothing."

There are 14.3 million men registered with the Selective Service.

When the nation did have a draft, between 1950 and 1973, about 30,000 medical professionals were drafted into the active force, each serving about 2 years, Flahavan said.

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## IN THE WORLD

## European nations offer Iran nuke deal

Britain, France and Germany try to ease possible crisis with technology and trade

By WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — European negotiators worked to ease the nuclear standoff with Iran on Thursday by offering civilian nuclear technology and a trade deal in exchange for assurances that the Tehran regime will suspend uranium enrichment.

Britain, France and Germany were offering Iranian officials the enticements in a private meeting in Vienna, hoping to persuade the country to stop enrichment, which can be used both to generate electricity or build a nuclear weapon.

But even before they could make a formal pitch, Iran said Wednesday it had a compromise proposal which would not compromise its right to enrich uranium. The Iranians did not give details, but President Mohammad Khatami made it clear that his government had no intentions of stopping the practice.

"We expect that our legitimate rights be recognized and that Iran not be deprived of nuclear technology," Khatami told reporters in Tehran. The main problem is that they say, "You should ignore your rights," and that we

would never do."

By offering the incentives, the three European powers are giving Iran one last chance to avoid the threat of U.N. sanctions.

Although Iran insists its nuclear activities are peaceful and geared purely toward generating electric power, the United States has accused it of running a clandestine weapons program.

On Nov. 25, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board of governors will deliver a fresh assessment of Iran's cooperation — or lack of it — with the nuclear watchdog agency. The United States is pressing to re-

port Iran's noncompliance to the U.N. Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions.

The incentives being offered to Iran included a light-water nuclear reactor, the

possibility of buying nuclear fuel from the West and the promise of lucrative trade, diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

"We will have to see the offer. We have not seen anything yet," an Iranian official said. "And then we will have to take it to our capital. We really have to wait and see."

Iran is unlikely to cave in quickly to Western demands that it suspend enrichment, a diplomat familiar with the nuclear agency's dealings with Tehran told the AP.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Iran doesn't react until the eve of the board meeting" with any significant concessions, the official said.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the Bush administration does not endorse the European allies' incentive plan.

"Our view is that it's a European proposal, that it's for them to describe, for them to make," he said. "We haven't bought on, signed or endorsed it, but we know they are going to do it."

Boucher said the U.S. position "is that any discussion at this point of what might happen if the Iranians comply is probably pretty hypothetical."



Khatami

## France expels students who defy head scarf rule

By ELAINE GANLEY

The Associated Press

PARIS — France has quietly begun expelling Muslim girls for wearing head scarves to public schools in defiance of a new law banning conspicuous religious attire. Seven girls have

been expelled Tuesday from a school so far this week after two more were expelled Thursday.

Education authorities had held off meting out the punishment for students who have refused to respect the law, fearful of endangering the lives of two French hostages in Iraq whose captors have demanded the law be abolished.

However, a decision was made to proceed this week with a limited number of expulsions among the 72 cases of students refusing to comply with the law, which went into effect with the start of the academic year.

After disciplinary hearings Thursday morning, two girls were expelled from two middle schools in the town of Fiers, in

Normandy, in western France, said Fabrice Pellizzari, top aide at the Academy of Caen, which oversees schools in the region. The girls, not identified, were in 8th and 9th grade.

Several other expulsions were expected before the end of the week.

Another Muslim girl was expelled from a school in Fler on Wednesday and two 17-year-olds were expelled from a school in Mulhouse, in eastern France.

"They have just destroyed my life," 12-year-old

Khoulood told Le Monde newspaper after she and another girl were expelled Tuesday from the Jean Mace middle school in Mulhouse — the first students forced out of school since the law took effect.

"What they want is to see us in tight pants like all the girls," Khoulood was quoted as saying. Le Monde did not give her last name.

Recalcitrant students are sent before a disciplinary council when it appears clear they cannot be persuaded to conform to the



In the Sikh temple of Bobigny, France, French Sikhs Jasvir, right, and Birkramjit Singh have been kept out of class since September, in accordance with the law banning religious signs from public schools.

law. Most are Muslim girls, but Sikh boys refusing to remove their turbans also risk being expelled.

The kidnapping in Iraq of journalists Christian Chesnot and Christian Malbrunot, who entered their third month in captivity Wednesday, forced education authorities to tread softly. The Islamic Army of Iraq, a group that claimed to be holding the journalists and their Syrian driver, has demanded the law be abolished. The French government refused.

The cautious approach stretched a required period of dialogue with recalcitrant students

to the limit.

Disciplinary hearings this week are to resume after a vacation period marking the Roman Catholic All Saints Day holiday, which ends Nov. 3.

Education Minister Francois Fillon expressed satisfaction Tuesday with progress in resolving troublesome cases — some 600 at the start of the school year. Most were resolved through dialogue.

Critics contend the law contravenes fundamental rights and risks stigmatizing members of France's 5 million-strong Muslim population, western Europe's largest.

## At least 60 dead in Chinese mine blast

By JOE McDONALD

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A gas blast tore through a Chinese coal mine, killing at least 60 people in the country's deadliest mine accident this year, the government said Thursday. Officials reported that another 88 were missing and chances of finding them alive were slim. Some 44 people were at work in the Daping Mine southwest of Beijing at the time of the explosion and 298 escaped alive, said Sun Hongbin, deputy administrator of the State Administration of Work Safety.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the explosion occurred Wednesday night in Henan province. The agency cited local officials saying 60 miners were confirmed dead and more than 1,000 rescuers were searching for 88 others. Xinhua said most of the miners whose bodies had been found so far died of suffocation in the toxic fumes.

"The chances of the workers surviving are rather slim," Sun said at a news conference in Beijing.

State television said the gas density in the mine shot up from 2 percent to 40 percent in less than three minutes. Poor ventilation is a common problem in China's accident-prone mines.

The cause of the accident was under investigation, an official reached by telephone at the Henan Province Coal Mine Safety Inspection Bureau said. He refused to give his name.

The state-owned Daping Mine employs 4,100 people and is located at the mine offices under green canvas tarps for identification, Xinhua said. It said 20 injured miners were hospitalized, four of them in serious condition.

State television showed rescue workers in orange jumpsuits and hardhats rushing to the scene holding what appeared to be oxygen canisters and first aid kits.

"This accident exposed many problems in our works, such as that the fundamental facilities of coal mine work are still very weak and many loopholes still exist in our management on work safety," said Sun, the safety official.

China's coal mines are the world's deadliest, with thousands of deaths reported every year in explosions, underground floods and other accidents often blamed on negligence or lack of safety equipment.

Fires, floods and other accidents in coal mines killed 4,153 people in the first nine months of this year, the government said Thursday in a regular report on industrial safety.

## Construction on Russian skyscraper begins

MOSCOW — Although still only in its infancy, construction has begun on the building that is to be Europe's tallest, a shiny young brother to the dour Stalinist "Seven Sisters" skyscrapers that dominated Moscow's skyline for a half-century.

The first beam was put in place last week for the building called the "Eurasia prime," a mixed residential and office project that will consist of two soaring glass-clad buildings linked to an even taller stiletto-like tower, due for completion in 2007. The taller of the two buildings is to top out at 1,115 feet, 249 feet higher than the continent's current cham-

pion — Moscow's Triumph Palace apartment high-rise. In western Europe, the tallest building is Frankfurt's 850-foot Commerzbank.

## Spain questions three in plot to kill judges

MADRID, Spain — Three Algerians who are considered close to a suspected ringleader of the Madrid train bombings are being questioned about an alleged plot to kill judges investigating Islamic terrorists.

The three are among 11 prisoners who have been isolated from other inmates for questioning over a possible link to the alleged plot targeting the National Court with a suicide truck bomb, police said.

From The Associated Press



Tourists go through a sandstorm at the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, Tuesday. The local government has ordered an urgent investigation Wednesday after reports that one of the four minarets of the 17th century Taj Mahal, India fabled moment to love, had tilted slightly.

## Slight tilt reported at India's Taj Mahal

BY KULSUM MUSTAFA  
The Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India — An Indian state government ordered an urgent investigation Wednesday after reports that one of the four minarets of the 17th century Taj Mahal — the country's fabled monument to love — has tilted slightly.

Mohammed Azam Khan, urban development minister of the northern Uttar Pradesh state, said a panel of government experts has been asked to report within a week on whether a tower had leaned outward by 8.5 inches. "This is a grave matter so I'm impressed upon the Cabinet not to delay action in the matter," Khan said in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh capital.

India is celebrating the Taj Mahal's 350th anniversary this year. Yearlong celebrations started Sept. 27 in Agra, the city in Uttar Pradesh where the major tourist attraction is located.

## Russian tourist killed by lightning in Peru

The Associated Press

LIMA, Peru — Lightning struck and killed a Russian tourist as he snapped photos from a mountain peak at the famous Inca ruins of Machu Picchu, police said Tuesday.

Denis Pankin, 35, died Monday afternoon as he stood alone atop Huayna Picchu, a steep peak overlooking the pre-Columbian stone citadel in the Andes mountains, police said.

According to a preliminary coroner's report, Pankin died of "cardiac arrest caused by electric shock," police officer Max Estrada said from the ruins, 310 miles southeast of Lima.

At the same time Pankin was struck, lightning also hit and burned a flagpole atop an adjacent peak, Estrada said.

Machu Picchu was used as a refuge by the Incas, whose century-long empire unified South American cultures along the spine of the Andes from modern day Colombia to Chile. The Incas were conquered by the Spaniards who arrived in 1532.

The mysterious, partially reconstructed citadel in jungle-shrouded mountains, is South America's top archaeological site. It draws 300,000 foreign visitors each year.

## Human Rights Watch pushes Russia to combat army hazing

BY MARIA DANILOVA  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Human Rights Watch urged Russian authorities on Wednesday to take action against the vicious hazing that plagues the nation's military, saying the abuse that kills dozens of conscripts every year and traumatizes thousands more can be prevented.

In an 86-page report, the U.S.-based group said first-year conscripts are subjected to pervasive humiliation, battery and harassment by their seniors, which drives hundreds to commit suicide and thousands of others to flee their military units.

"This is a very big human rights problem — one of the biggest that Russia has," said Dieter Lohman, a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch.

Hazing practices involve making new conscripts perform endless tasks — buying alcohol, shining boots, making beds or obtaining money for senior soldiers. It also involves physical abuse, such as beatings with sticks or iron rods and sometimes even sexual harassment.

The Defense Ministry won't comment until it has read the report, a spokesman said.

Alexei, a recently drafted conscript who declined to give his last name, ran away from the army after senior soldiers poured what appeared to be an

## Russia denies allegations

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's main military prosecutor's office said Thursday that a Human Rights Watch report was wrong to characterize hazing in the Russian military as widespread and said Russia had already made serious efforts to combat the problem.

The prosecutor's office said that interviews with 100 conscripts from 50 units "could hardly reflect an objective picture." It said that no hazing crimes had been registered in 80 percent of the units.

It noted that hotlines, regular checks of military units and constant cooperation with civic groups had been established.

The prosecutor's office said that many of the cases raised in the Human Rights Watch report had already been brought before the courts. Some 3,200 servicemen, including more than 400 officers, have been convicted of hazing, it said.

acid-based liquid on his face after he refused to obtain about \$275 for them.

"While I was asleep, they poured acid or something on my face, and you see what happened," he told Associated Press Television News, his face covered with red spots.

"The next day, they left a note saying, 'If you don't want the rest of your face burned, call your parents,'" Alexei said.

Soldier Alexander Shukhanov said a sergeant sat on him in the middle of the night and extinguished cigarettes on his back.

In a 1998 amateur video, obtained by APTN from the Sovetskoye Sekretnoye production company, senior conscripts are shown violently beating a younger recruit who offers no resistance and only grimaces in pain.

In another scene, younger conscripts stand lined up while an older soldier walks by and kicks and punches one after another in their stomachs. Again, the younger conscripts show no resistance, and only take deep breaths when their turn comes to receive the blow.

In the first half of this year, 25 soldiers died as a result of hazing by older conscripts and 12 others died from excess force used by their officers, according to Russia's chief military prosecutor, Alexander Savenkov. During the same period, 109 committed suicide, 60 of them as a result of hazing, he said.

Experts say, however, that the actual number of deaths is higher, since official statistics account only for cases that reach the courts.

## U.S.-Finnish boys found, to be reunited with American father

BY MATTI HUHTANEN  
The Associated Press

HELSINKI, Finland — Police on Wednesday finally removed two boys from a country house where they had been hiding since the Supreme Court last month ordered their Finnish mother to return them to the United States where their American father lives.

The children, aged 10 and 13, were holed up in the farmhouse near Ristijarvi, 360 miles north of Helsinki, when police found their trail. They had been hiding for weeks, local police said but gave no other details. It was not clear where the brothers were taken.

Their mother, Outi Koski, who had been in the farmhouse with the boys, said they climbed out of the window and ran into the forest when police surrounded the building. They were caught and questioned by officials for two to three hours before officers forced them into a waiting taxi, she said.

"The children cried and screamed and were lifted violently into the car," Koski told reporters at the scene. She said she was not told where the boys, Jacob and Alexander Rogers, were taken.

Their father, John Rogers, was at Greenville, South Carolina home, preparing to go to Finland to pick up his children, but didn't say when he would arrive.

"I've got to be a little bit careful," he said. "It was a very big mess over there when they got the boys today."

On Sept. 3, Finland's Supreme Court ordered Koski to take her children back to the United States despite her claims they did not want to be reunited with their American father.

The boys have dual citizenship. They had been living with their mother in Finland since August 2003, when she failed to return home with them to South Carolina after a vacation.

Rogers and Koski were awarded joint custody of the children when they divorced in 2001. A court in Greenville ruled the boys should spend equal time in each parent's home.

The Finnish Supreme Court sparked protests when it overruled a lower court decision and ordered Koski to take the boys back to the United States "to ensure that the custody dispute can be settled in the original country of residency."

It threw out an appeal by Koski, upholding its earlier ruling saying it was not sufficiently satisfied that "the views as presented by the children were their own, independently made opinions made of their own free will."

A court in the United States last year granted Rogers full custody of the boys after Koski did not return with them to Greenville.

In March, Rogers abducted the boys from Finland and was stopped by police in Paris, where a court ruled they should be returned to their mother in Finland.

A month later, the Helsinki Court of Appeal sided with the boys' mother, saying statements made by them to child psychiatrists and therapists indicated they "clearly opposed being returned."

The case went to the Supreme Court after Rogers appealed.

"There's so many things I want to do with them. I want to throw a football with them or a baseball or ride bikes. We often in the evening would play cards or checkers," he said. "I just want to spend time with them."

## IN THE STATES

## Judge: Detainees need access to lawyers

BY GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge says terror suspects held by U.S. authorities at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba must be allowed to meet with lawyers and that their conversations cannot be monitored.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly said in her ruling on Wednesday that administration "attempts to erode this bedrock principle" of attorney-client privacy were backed by "a flimsy assemblage" of arguments.

The Supreme Court ruled in June that the 600 foreign-born

## Attorney-client privilege upheld for terror suspects held at Gitmo

men then held in the Navy-run prison camp could challenge their captives in American courts.

Kollar-Kotelly, a former Justice Department attorney named to the bench by President Clinton, said that would be impossible without legal help.

"They have been detained virtually incommunicado for nearly three years without being charged with any crime. To say that [detainees'] ability to investigate the circumstances surround-

ing their capture and detention is 'seriously impaired' is an understatement," she wrote.

She also said it was impossible for the men "to grapple with the complexities of a foreign legal system and present their claims to this court" without attorneys, access to a law library and fluency in English.

"We are reviewing the decision," Justice Department spokesman John Nowacki said late Wednesday.

Michael Ratner, president of the New York Center for Constitutional Rights, which represents some of the detainees, called it "a wonderful vindication of what the Supreme Court said they had a right to have access to lawyers."

Multiple cases have been filed in federal court in Washington on behalf of Guantanamo detainees.

Kollar-Kotelly's decision, the most significant since the Supreme Court's June ruling, came in the case of three Kuwaiti nationals who have been held since shortly after Sept. 11, 2001.

More than 500 men from 40 countries are being held on suspicion of links to al-Qaida or the fallen Taliban regime.

## SEC, Qwest settle suit

DENVER — The regional telecommunications company Qwest agreed Thursday to pay \$250 million to settle allegations that it improperly hoarded millions in revenue and that senior managers sought to cover it up.

The Securities and Exchange Commission filed the settlement agreement in federal court in Denver, capping a 2½-year investigation.

The complaint accuses Denver-based Qwest Communications International Inc. of booking one-time revenue from the sale or trade of fiber-optic capacity as recurring revenue from operations.

## No right-to-die rehearing

TAMPA, Fla. — The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday declined a request from Gov. Jeb Bush to reconsider its decision striking down a state law designed to save the life of a severely brain-damaged woman at the center of a bitter right-to-die dispute.

The state's high court ruled 7-4 last month that Bush and state lawmakers overstepped their authority when they adopted the law ordering that Terri Schiavo's feeding tube be reinserted six days after her husband had it removed so she could die.

Bush's attorney asked the court for a rehearing, which was rejected without comment in a one-page ruling issued Thursday in Tallahassee.

## Web-brokered transplant

DENVER — Setting aside ethical concerns, surgeons completed a kidney transplant Wednesday in what is believed to be the first operation where the donor and recipient met through a commercial Web site.

The donor and recipient were doing well after the four-hour surgery, Presbyterian St. Latic's Medical Center spokeswoman Stephanie Lewis said.

Bob Hickey, who lives in a mountain town near Vail, had needed a transplant since 1999 because of kidney disease but had grown tired of being on dialysis at a waiting list. He met donor Rob Smitty of Chattanooga, Tenn., through MatchingDonors.com, a for-profit Web site created in January to help donors and patients for a fee.

## Dave Barry takes leave

MIAMI — Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist Dave Barry said he plans to take an indefinite leave of absence from The Miami Herald starting in January.

Barry, 57, said Tuesday he wants to spend more time with his family after a hectic summer covering the Democratic and Republican national conventions and the Athens Olympics. He said he may return in 2006.

His weekly column in the Herald is carried by 500 newspapers across the United States.

From The Associated Press

## Study: Birth control pills cut risk of heart disease and some types of cancer

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Women on the birth control pill had surprisingly lower risks of heart disease and stroke and no increased risk of breast cancer, according to the largest women's health study ever done.

The findings by the Women's Health Initiative, the biggest study on oral contraceptives, are contrary to what many previous studies have found. Results from nearly 162,000 participants were presented Wednesday at an American Society for Reproductive Medicine conference.

The same federal study that led millions of women to abandon use of hormones after menopause now provides reassurance that the pill is safe. Doctors say the type of hormones and the stage of life when they're used may be what makes them helpful at one point and harmful at another.

"We're still learning more and more about the biology," said one of the researchers, Dr. Michael Diamond of Wayne State University in Detroit.

About 16 million American women currently take birth control pills and hundreds of millions have used them since the first one came on the market in 1960. Most combine synthetic forms of estrogen and progestin hormones.

Women taking these hormones after menopause were more likely to have heart disease and certain cancers — a finding that prompted part of the study to be stopped in 2002.

Previous research on oral contraceptives suggested that they, too, raised the chances of heart disease. But the new study found the opposite — lower risk of heart attacks, strokes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure

and other heart-related problems among the 67,000 women in the study who had ever taken the pill.

Overall, "there's an 8 percent risk reduction of ever having cardiovascular disease" among women who had ever taken birth control pills, said the lead researcher, Dr. Rami Victory of Wayne State. "If you use oral contraceptives early on, you're probably going to be protected later in life."

Women on the pill also had a 7 percent lower risk of developing any form of cancer — a small benefit that increased with age, said Dr. Victory. For example, women who took birth control pills for four years or more had 42 percent lower risk of ovarian cancer and 30 percent lower chances of developing uterine cancer.

No effect was seen on the risk of some specific cancers — breast, colon or bladder. But that was good news because of the previous work suggesting pill use made breast cancer more likely.

Dr. Robert Rebar, a gynecologist who is executive director of the reproductive medicine group, said the type of hormone may make a difference, too. Birth control pills contain four to six times the amount of estrogen as even the lowest formulations of hormone replacement therapy. But the most popular form of the latter uses estrogen derived from horse urine; birth control pills use a synthetic, manufactured form of it.

"That is totally different," he said. "We can't equate them."

The \$625 million Women's Health Initiative study was done at 40 locations around the country and funded by the National Institutes of Health. Wyeth provided the hormone pills for the menopause portion of the study, but no oral contraceptive makers financed any part of that research.



Peter, John, center, and Rita Bargetto, right, take a walk after a prayer session for family members missing in a snowstorm Wednesday in Shaver Lake, Calif. Four members of the Bargetto's Santa Cruz County wine-making family have been missing since Sunday at a lake at 9,400 feet east of Fresno in the Sierra National Forest.

## Two hikers killed in Sierras blizzard

BY TOM VERDIN

The Associated Press

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. — Crystal clear sky raised hopes Thursday in the search for 13 hikers missing after an intense storm of the way up the sheer 3,200-foot face of the famous El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

Rescuers also hoped to retrieve the bodies of two Japanese climbers that dangled about two-thirds of the way up the sheer 3,200-foot face of the famous El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

The men were killed after the early blizzard dropped snow and rain across the Sierras on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The pair were among seven people on the wall when the storm hit, park ranger Deb Schweizer said. A solo climber was rescued Wednesday, and rangers labored against 4-foot snow and 50 mph wind gusts to reach a man and a woman Wednesday. The rangers remained with the couple on the face overnight, Schweizer said. Rangers did not consider the other climbers in danger.

Rescue workers also planned Thursday to bring out a San Luis Obispo couple spotted with their

dog in the Dinkley Lakes Wilderness east of Fresno.

The missing included four members of a Santa Cruz County winemaking family missing since Sunday near a high-alpine lake east of Fresno in the Sierra National Forest.

Two other groups of four were also missing, one in the Ansel Adams Wilderness near Yosemite's southern boundary and the other on Mount Whitney in Sequoia National Park. A lone hiker was missing in the Inyo national forest.

The two father-and-son pairs from the family that owns Bargetto Vineyards have been missing since Sunday from a 9,400-foot-elevation lake east of Fresno in the Sierra National Forest.

Rescuers found the family's car at the Courtright Reservoir, in a remote area northeast of Fresno, and were trying to hike the same route the missing group was supposed to take, a 1,200-foot climb to Rae Lake.

The four men believed to be in the Ansel Adams Wilderness were described as experienced hikers ages 45 to 75 from the San Francisco Bay area city of Lafayette.

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## Article violated OPSEC

Every day we are told to practice operational security and personnel security to ensure our safety. It is even mentioned in Stars and Stripes on several occasions. That is why I am curious why the newspaper would publish certain things in "Daily attacks on base dubs it 'Mortartville'" (Middle East edition, Oct. 18). The article mentions several things that should not be printed in an open source, such as the request and denial of more troops. Saying that there aren't enough troops to perform adequate patrols would only increase insurgent attacks. Also in the article there's a quote from Brig. Gen. Oscar B. Hilman: "I call [Anacosta] the life support of the theater."

Now I am just a specialist, but to me it doesn't sound like a smart thing to put that in print. Making this information available to insurgents puts Logistical Support Area Anacosta at a larger risk for attacks. I know there are varying degrees of OPSEC and at some point it is just paranoia, but I believe these statements cross the line. Next time I hope Stars and Stripes and The (Baltimore) Sun (whose reporter wrote the story) are more careful about what they print.

SpC. Joel Cox

Logistical Support Area Anacosta, Iraq

## Keep religion out of paper

In response to the letter "Need inspiration column" (Oct. 16), I hope that Stars and Stripes maintains its policy of not providing religious/spiritual focus. That's what a church, pastor and religious scripture are for.

Stars and Stripes has a reputation for being inclusive of all points of view. If you choose to have an "inspiration" column, in support of faith, please make it secular with no mention of God. Believe it or not, most of the world is not Christian, and to focus on one god is biased, exclusive and prejudicial. Please consider Buddhists who do not believe in

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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God, Muslims who believe in Allah, secular philosophies, etc. All of these religions and philosophies are represented in the U.S. military.

There's enough religious brouhaha on American Forces Network radio and television to satisfy any Christian needs without expressing Christian superiority or importance in yet another venue. AFN has responded to me that they will not show anything but Christian broadcasting on its stations.

Bonnie Spoales

Wiesbaden, Germany

## STDs and prostitution

I am a community health nurse in Heidelberg, Germany, who counsels soldiers with sexually transmitted diseases. I would like to clarify several false statements in the article "U.S. forces in Germany back legal prostitution" (Sept. 26).

One soldier says that "working women in Germany are regularly tested, so there should be nothing stopping troops from using Eros Centers if they choose." This is false. Testing is offered as a free service to commercial sex workers and high-

ly encouraged. However, it is not mandatory — I verified this through the German Health Department. Unfortunately, with all of the education many still don't realize that a "negative HIV" does not necessarily mean negative. We test for antibodies to HIV and this can take several months to a year for someone to convert.

A sergeant's statement — "[I]f it's an issue of safety, there are condoms and stuff like that that soldiers can use" — is also upsetting to read. The problem here is twofold: Soldiers are not always wearing condoms, and condoms are only 98 percent effective if used correctly and they do not protect against many STDs that can be contracted on places other than [what] the condom covers. These STDs include human papilloma virus (genital warts) and herpes.

Using commercial sex workers is not only a safety issue for soldiers, it also directly affects soldier readiness, impedes missions and costs taxpayers money. Soldiers may require medical treatment — time away from duty for appointments, costly antibiotics or other medications — and even hospitalizations.

Kimberly Jeffery-Wolfe  
Heidelberg, Germany

## Please send postcards

Our fourth-grade class is currently studying the regions of the United States. We are learning about each state and its environment, land forms and special places of interest. We are asking for your help.

We would like people to send us postcards that show us what their state is like. This would give us the opportunity to get a firsthand look at your state.

If you would like to write a note on back, we would appreciate it. Please send them to: Fourth Grade Class, c/o Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center, 341 N. Emery Ave., Peshtigo, WI 54157. Thank you in advance for helping us make learning a fun and rewarding experience.

Haley Bouche's class  
Peshtigo, Wis.

## Troops wrong, but mission questionable

The Dallas Morning News

Now a Dallas command troops who refuse to follow legal orders, especially in a theater of war. The insubordination displayed by 18 Army reservists in Iraq led to complete a supply mission in Iraq that was an extremely serious matter. The Army cannot let these soldiers get away with it.

Yet it is hard not to sympathize with the choice those soldiers made. They risked their military careers, and possibly even their freedom, rather than go on

what they feared was a suicide convoy mission.

The soldiers said their trucks were not road-worthy, putting them at greater risk for breakdown, thus an easier target for insurgents.

Moreover, the trucks lacked armor plating, they said, and the military would not provide a tactical helicopter escort through the desert.

Brig. Gen. James Chambers confirmed on Sunday that the unit's trucks had no armor, and he ordered a safety and maintenance review of all trucks in that company.

Given the guerrilla nature of the Iraq war, it is not surprising that the troops running support missions find themselves effectively deployed on the front lines. To force them to serve there without adequate protection is unconscionable.

It's likely that the Army will censure the insubordinate troops, and maybe it has to be that way to maintain discipline. If that happens, however, we hope that their sacrifice will not have been in vain. Let their protest shame the government into doing right by all our soldiers in Iraq, and giving those brave men and women whatever they need to do the job.

By GARRY TRUDEAU





## OPINION

## Why this is true: Candidates crave coverage

BY EDWARD WASSERMAN

**T**he clamor of the 2004 presidential campaigns has reawakened the idea that the news media should devote energy not just to reporting the ferocious exchange of claims and denials, but to refereeing it.

With so much rhetoric based on distortion and falsehood, why not? As a result we're seeing more effort going into evaluating candidate statements for their truthfulness and passing along the results. Added to the tired formula of stenographic reporting — "she said, he said" — is a third element: "we say." The hope is that exposure will shame candidates into respecting the facts.

For journalists, at issue is a tradition of objectivity that has been tottering for half a century, certainly since the press made Sen. Joseph McCarthy a huge celebrity for slandering large numbers of fellow citizens. Journalistic convention permitted, even demanded, that his hysterical allegations of disloyalty be reported straight.

Even if reporters disbelieved what he said, their job was to report the news, and it was news that McCarthy had said it.

A lot of people got hurt, and encouraging journalists to pause before they pass along assertions they know or suspect to be false seems like a good thing.

But there are problems with that. There's the traditionalist concern that the news media — already under heated scrutiny for signs of favoritism — would become an official party to electoral debate.

Who would be left to give a straight-up account of the claims and counterclaims that are the stuff of partisan political discourse? Still, it's hard to argue that the public is

well-served by honest accounts of dishonest assertions. How can you know whether the candidate who calls his opponent a liar isn't lying himself? Who's going to blow the whistle?

There's a bigger problem, the most sobering lesson of this campaign. It's that lies, even when exposed, work. Indeed, we're seeing a diabolical paradox: that exposing the lie enables it to work.

The anti-Bush people were so energized by "Fahrenheit 9/11," with its vicious depiction of a venal and conniving First Family, that they swallowed its claims as true. Maybe some were. But does anybody really believe that the Bushes were so corrupted by their business ties to the Saudis that the president redeployed military from Afghanistan to Iraq to avoid harming a personal benefactor named Osama bin Laden? That film took to heart its dubious veracity, and that critique became part of the outsized coverage that the film got in the media. Consequently, when the smoke cleared, "Fahrenheit 9/11" was established as a campaign document. A piece of cinematic propaganda had been ratified by refuted.

It was answered by the Swift Boat contingent's anti-Kerry columns, again amplified and injected into mainstream discourse by the media — in the very course of debunking their truthfulness.

It isn't just that a lie refuted is a lie repeated. Apparently we've now entered an era where the liar expects to be called on the lie — and wants to be.

Isn't that the Kennedy's ridiculous assertion that he never met John Edwards before their vice presidential debate. Cheney is a smart guy with the world's best support staff. They planned to use this zinger.



They had to know it wasn't true. The next day's papers had photos proving it.

But Cheney's point was that Edwards was a legislative lightweight, not one of the Capitol Hill agenda-setters that even he would have had to deal with. A picture of them at a congressional reporter breakfast years ago did nothing but remake Cheney's point. So the lie was well worth it.

Or consider John Kerry's frequent reference to the \$200 billion cost of the Iraq war. Kerry has an awesome command of policy facts. If the current bill is \$140 billion, he knows that. Every time he says it's

half-again as costly, he knows he'll be called on it.

So be it. Each time he's challenged on that falsehood, the challenge draws attention to the continuing cost of a war that he insists deft statesmanship could have avoided. Again, the lie is worth it.

So we're left concluding that the zeal of the media in trying to referee fact-based debate has been turned into a practice that is more likely to reward deceit than to deter it.

The only real check is not to vote for liars. It'd be nice to think that was still an option.

Edward Wasserman is Knight professor of journalism ethics at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. He wrote this column for The Miami Herald.

## We exercise our rights until they are exhausted

BY BARBARA ANDERSON

**W**HADDAYA MEAN. We can't get our flu shots this year! We have a right to our flu shots.

Further, we are entitled to cheap flu shots, even free ones. I mean, we need them; without them, we might get sick. So here we are, arms bared, waiting for the needle. So where is it? Uh, dudes. What if no one wants to provide it? Time to take another look at the phrase "right to." And the word "entitled."

Start with the Declaration of Independence. We have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — it's self-evident. God's endowed us. I'm sure that Thomas Jefferson was correct about this.

But what if no one wants to help us sustain our life? What if no one wants to be a doctor, or a nurse, or a drug company? Will God co-erce "volunteers" to fulfill the endowment? Waiting, waiting. Where is God with my flu shot? Jefferson said government was instituted to secure our rights. So I guess if no one wants to be a doctor, a nurse, or a drug company, the government should draft them. You want to be a teacher? A carpenter? Run an airline, or work for a utility company? Forget it. The government wants you in medicine.

But, but ... we're entitled to an education, too. And to housing.

Make that "affordable" housing. We're entitled to travel across America in a few hours for a few hundred dollars. Heating oil, gas and electricity should be affordable. We are entitled to cheap gasoline for our cars.

I am, therefore I think I'm entitled. We need them, therefore someone must provide. We want, so God and the government had better make someone give us whatever.

But, but ... if some people are drafted to

provide, are forced to give, what happened to their entitlement to liberty and the pursuit of their own happiness? Well, we all have to get together for the common good. We have to sacrifice some of our liberty to ensure life and the pursuit of happiness for all of us.

OK, so Jefferson mispoke. He meant to say we have a right to life and the pursuit of happiness at the expense of other people's liberty and the singular pursuit of their own happiness. But, but ... who are these other people? Didn't God endow them, too? Never mind. It's obvious what has to be done to get us our flu shots. The government has to tell American drug companies to hire more people (draft them, if necessary), build more facilities, and make and distribute more vaccines to doctors and clinics. And make it quick, and make it cheap. None of these obscene profits, you evil drug companies, you.

And since we have a right to not only flu

shots but also total medical care, the government may someday have to draft doctors. If they don't like it, too bad — and tell them to stop complaining about those malpractice-insurance premiums. Tell the insurance companies to stop complaining about mandated coverage. Don't they understand — we are entitled to excellent, affordable health care, provided by doctors who don't make mistakes.

And what, our own insurance premiums are going up ... again? We have co-pays? Deductibles? Just to receive our endowment from God?

We have a right to auto insurance, too. There were insurance companies that didn't care to provide it under Massachusetts conditions anyway, and left the state. Our government wanted to force them to stay, but involuntary servitude having been abolished throughout the land, the government had to settle for making the companies pay a fine if

they left. What if they all pay it? Funny — new companies aren't standing in line to take care here. Who will give us the auto insurance to which we are entitled?

I know that they meant well, but perhaps our Founding Fathers should have given some thought to the law of unintended consequences before they began the Revolution with a statement about rights. At the very least, they might have done a footnote: "Just because a right is self-evident doesn't mean that it is automatically provided at someone else's expense."

Because what we seem to have, 228 years later, is a very unrealistic entitlement mentality built into our national outlook.

Where are my entitlements — my affordable life at the expense of other people's liberties and, most of all, my darn flu shot? Tell me: I have a right to executive director of Massachusetts-settled Citizens for Limited Taxation. This column first appeared in The Providence (R.I.) Journal.

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

## Mallard Fillmore



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# Candidates push hard in northern states

## Bush makes Pennsylvania his home away from home

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — His White House away from the White House as is likely this year to be in Pennsylvania as Texas, but President Bush doesn't mind. With his re-election campaign winding down, the rancher-president thinks fence-mending is more urgent up north.

The Republican, who has dubbed his Crawford, Texas, ranch the "Western White House," makes his 40th and 41st trips to Pennsylvania when he visits Downingtown, Hershey and Wilkes-Barre leading into the weekend.

In comparison, Bush has visited his Crawford home 40 times since 2001, according to the White House travel office. He returns to Texas on Saturday for his 41st visit since taking office.

"Maybe he's trying to claim Pennsylvania residency to vote," quipped presidential scholar Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Bush's challenger in the Nov. 2 election, Democrat John Kerry, made his 21st political visit to Pennsylvania on Wednesday for a Pittsburgh rally. His wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, has a house in suburban Pittsburgh, where they often stay.

Bush has visited Pennsylvania — which has 21 electoral votes, the fifth-largest amount — more than any other state. He narrowly lost there in 2000.

Because the real White House is relatively close, Bush rarely stays overnight in the state.

Jamieson said his travels won't directly deliver him more votes, but the trips have helped increase his visibility in Pennsylvania while energizing campaign workers who are trying to win over voters.

"People are the equivalent of money in politics," she said.

Bush campaign spokesman Kevin Mad-



President Bush signs the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act on Thursday in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., left, Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., center, and Sharon Smith look on. The act deals with youth suicide and early intervention and prevention.

den said the trips reflect the president's interest in the state — and its voters.

"Pennsylvania has seen plenty of presidential footsteps around the state, and I think it's fair to say we will see plenty of visits right up until November 2," Madden said.

Kerry spokesman Mark Nevins said that for all of Bush's attention, Pennsylvania "don't have much to show for it."

"We will have fewer jobs on his 41st visit than we did on his first, fewer people will have health care coverage on his 41st visit than on his first," Nevins said. "Pennsylvania is headed in the wrong direction, and people are ready for a change, and 41 visits isn't going to change that."

## Kerry takes aim at voters, geese in key state of Ohio

BY NEDRA PICKLER

The Associated Press

BOARDMAN, Ohio — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said he bagged a goose on his swing-state hunting trip Thursday, but his real target was the voters who may harbor doubts about him.

Kerry returned after a two-hour hunting trip wearing a camouflage jacket and carrying a 12-gauge shotgun, but someone else carried the bird he said he shot.

"I'm too lazy," Kerry joked. "I'm still giddy over the Red Sox. It was hard to focus."

The Massachusetts senator was referring to Boston's American League championship Wednesday night. He stayed up late cheering his hometown team into victory, then got up for a 7 a.m. hunting trip at a supporter's produce farm.

Kerry adviser Mike McCurry said it's important in the final days of the campaign that voters "get a better sense of John Kerry, the guy."

That means the Democratic senator is spending some of the dwindling time before Election Day hunting, talking about his faith and watching his beloved Red Sox.

It's all part of an effort to win over swing voters who may be open to voting against President Bush but aren't sure they feel any connection with Kerry.

While the Democratic campaigns as an all-American, his political opponents are working to leave voters with a different impression.

Bush tells voters that Kerry is on the "left bank" of the country, opposing a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. Kerry does not support gay marriage but says the matter is for states to decide, and he favors civil unions for same-sex couples.

The National Rifle Association said it bought a full-page ad in Thursday's *Youngstown* newspaper that says Kerry is posing as a sportsman while opposing gun-owners' rights. Kerry has denied NRA claims that he wants to "take away" guns, but he supported the ban on assault-type weapons and requiring background checks at gun shows "if John Kerry thinks the Second



Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., returns from a goose hunting trip Thursday with Rep. Ted Strickland, D-Ohio, in Poland, Ohio.

Amendment is about photo ops, he's Duffy," says the ad the NRA said would run in *The Vincinator*.

Meanwhile, labor unions have been circulating fliers among workers that say Kerry won't take away guns. Kerry's aides said he spent about two hours hunting at a blind set up in a cornfield. More than two dozen journalists were invited to the farm outside of Youngstown to see Kerry emerge from the field, but none witnessed Kerry taking any shots.

The last time Kerry went hunting was October 2003 in Iowa, a state where he was trailing in the Democratic primary but came from behind to win.

Hunting is of particular interest in several of the states that are still up for grabs in the presidential race. Kerry bought his hunting license last Saturday in one of the most critical — Ohio, which has 20 electoral votes.

## Laura Bush: No need for job comment apology

BY BEVERLY WANG

The Associated Press

NEW LONDON, N.H. — Laura Bush said Thursday that Teresa Heinz Kerry didn't need to apologize for saying she couldn't remember whether the first lady had ever had "a real job."

"She apologized but she didn't even really need to apologize," Laura Bush told reporters at a coffee shop before attending a rally for President Bush. "I know how tough it is and actually I know those trick questions."

USA Today had asked Heinz Kerry, the wife of Democratic candidate John Kerry, if she would be different from Laura Bush as a first lady.

"Well, you know, I don't know Laura Bush. But she seems to be calm, and she has a sparkle in her eye, which is good," Heinz Kerry said in the interview published Wednesday. "But I don't know that she's ever had a real job — I mean, since she's been around."

So her experience and her validation comes from important things, but different things."

Heinz Kerry later said she had forgotten that Mrs. Bush had worked as a teacher and librarian.

"There couldn't be a more important job than teaching our children," she said in a statement. "As someone who has been both a full-time mom and full-time in work force, I know we all have valuable experiences that shape who we are. I appreciate and honor Mrs. Bush's service to the country as first lady and am sincerely sorry I had not remembered her important work in the past."



Laura Bush

Bush adviser Karen Hughes later criticized Heinz Kerry twice for remarks "indicative of an unfortunate mind-set that seeks to divide women based on who works at home and who works outside the home" and later for an apology she called "worse because she left out the very important real job of a mother."

## Pentagon Web site offers write-in ballot

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will post on its Web site a federal write-in ballot for civilian and military voters overseas who do not get their regular absentee ballot in time, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Spoesman Lt. Col. Joe Richards said the ballot was being made available on the Web site for the first time at the request of both the Republican and Democratic parties. He said it was expected to be posted by Thursday.

The ballot can be downloaded onto the voter's computer, then must be printed, filled out and mailed to the voter's local election office. To qualify for the write-in ballot, the voter must have applied for a regular absentee ballot early enough that the request was received by the local election official at least 30 days before the election.

Local election offices in some states missed the deadline of Sept. 19 for sending out absentee ballots to ensure their timely return from overseas locations where mail service sometimes is slow.

## Reeve's widow expected to attend Kerry speech

GIRARD, Ohio — Christopher Reeve's widow, Dana, plans to join Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry for a campaign speech about the importance of science, research and innovation.

Reeve supports Kerry's intention to expand federally funded embryonic stem cell research. The campaign said she approached the Massachusetts senator about making what probably will be her only campaign appearance, a speech Thursday in Columbus, Ohio.

Kerry knew the "Superman" actor for about 15 years through family and activist connections. Reeve left him a long telephone message the day before he died, thanking him for campaigning on behalf of medical research.

From The Associated Press

# 'Daily Show' book too racy for Wal-Mart

BY AVA THOMAS BENSON

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Wal-Mart canceled an order for a best-selling book by Jon Stewart and the writers of "The Daily Show" after executives learned that it contained a photo of nine naked, aged bodies, each with the superimposed head of a Supreme Court justice.

"America (The Book)," a mock

school text that lampoons the American government in much the same way the Comedy Central show spoofs the news, includes cutouts of the justices' robes and a caption asking readers to "restore their dignity by matching each justice with his or her respective robe."

Wal-Mart executives deemed the book inappropriate for its shelves.

"We were not aware of the image that was in the book (when Wal-Mart ordered it) and we felt the majority of our customers would not be comfortable with it," said Wal-Mart Stores Inc. spokeswoman Karen Burk. "We offer what we think our customers want to buy. That just makes good business sense."

Jamie Raab, a publisher for Warner Books, which produced

"America," said the naked justice joke fits perfectly with the book's theme.

"It's not gratuitous and it's very much in tune with the rest of the book," Raab said. "It's funny, yet to the point. When you understand the Supreme Court justices, they're just men and women and you have to judge them on who they are and what they do. It makes you look and think and

laugh."

Wal-Mart has a well-known policy of refusing to carry magazines with racy covers or CDs with explicit lyrics.

The chain is offering the book on its Web site. Burk said the store's online customers are a "different audience" and that the company wanted to give an option to people looking to buy the book from Wal-Mart.



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## Network drops Miss America pageant

BY JOHN CURRAN

The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — ABC has dropped Miss America, leaving the famous beauty pageant without a TV outlet for the first time in 50 years.

The network, which had carried the annual telecast since 1997 with a series of one-year contracts, notified Miss America Organization officials that they will not pick up the option this year, the pageant's acting president and CEO, Arthur McMaster, said Wednesday.

"We are now free to pursue other parties who have expressed interest in our organization, and we are excited at the limitless opportunities that are now available for us to grow our brand," he said.

The move, which comes after the Sept. 18 pageant drew a record low 9.8 million viewers, could jeopardize the foundation of a program that grew from an Atlantic City publicity stunt into a highly-rated TV staple, largely on the strength of the contest and crowning beamed into millions of living rooms each September.

Without network television to provide those images, Miss America faces an uncertain future.

"It's certainly an ominous sign," said former chief executive officer Leonard Horn. "Whether or not they can get a contract with another network is going to be very important."

ABC officials didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Shari Anne Brill, director of programming for ad-buying firm Carat, said a women-oriented network like Lifetime or Oxygen might want Miss America, but the pageant will still be hard-pressed to compete with reality TV shows.

"It used to be that these pageants were much bigger events, because that's all there was. Now, you have 'The Swan,' 'America's Top Model' and all these reality competitions going on. With those type of shows, the viewer has more of a chance to connect than watching someone from some state in a sash and a bathing suit," Brill said.



## Circus protest ruling

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Confining animal rights activists to small spaces while they were protesting circuses and rodeos at the state-run Cow Palace in San Francisco violated their constitutional free-speech rights, a federal appeals court ruled.

Activist Alfredo Ruba brought the case, saying small "free-expression zones" set hundreds of feet from the entrance stifled him and others from protesting circuses and rodeos. A unanimous three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed.

"Confining protesters off in a free expression zone the size of a parking space, located over 200 feet from the entrance, far from encouraging interaction with them, is more likely to give the impression to passers-by that these are people to be avoided," Judge Marsha S. Berzon wrote.

## Campus police reports

**KY** FRANKFORT — The University of Kentucky Police Department was wrong to black out victims' names from campus police reports before releasing the documents to the public, the attorney general's office ruled.

The opinion found that the school had not proved it was in the public interest to allow victims to choose whether they wanted their names released.

"Contrary to the views expressed by UKPD, the disputed incident reports are matters of public interest and are public records," according to the opinion.

UK had given the Kentucky Kernel, the school's student newspaper, copies of eight police reports with crime victims' names, addresses and other personal information blacked out. The newspaper appealed to Attorney General Greg Stumbo.

## Swastika spray-painter

**NY** NEW YORK — A woman admitted shortly after her arrest that she spray-painted swastikas in Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn and Queens because she was angry about her Jewish ex-husband's new wife, police said.

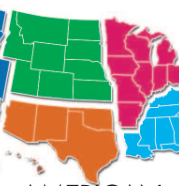
The woman, Olga Abramovich, 49, of Brooklyn, was charged with criminal mischief and related crimes, police said.

Police said Abramovich admitted targeting about 20 sites, including several synagogues, because she was angry at her former husband for marrying a younger woman. They said she also married two police cars because she was upset about receiving a summons.

## Illegal immigrant maid

**WI** MILWAUKEE — Two physicians have been indicted on charges alleging that for 20 years they kept an illegal immigrant in their home, a woman who told investigators she was not paid or allowed to leave without an escort except for shopping.

Jefferson N. Calimlim and Elnora M. Calimlim of Brookfield were



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

charged with one count each of harboring an illegal immigrant and conspiracy to harbor an illegal immigrant, and were freed without bail.

"To hold a domestic servant in virtual servitude for 20 years is a shocking callous disregard for our nation's most deeply held values," said Brian Falvey, resident agent in charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs enforcement in Milwaukee.

A defense attorney denied the accusations.

## Orcas' safe trip

**WA** SEATTLE — Washington state's resident killer whales, with two newborns in tow, dodged a potentially lethal roadblock in their voyage south to feast on a healthy run of chum salmon, experts say.

If the orcas had departed a week earlier, they could have run into pollution from a 1,000-gallon oil spill near Tacoma recently, said Ken Balcomb at the Center for Whale Research in the San Juan Islands.

"Hopefully they'll skirt the spill," Balcomb said, referring to thin deposits that cleanup technology cannot recover.

"As long as the whales don't swim through it and inhale it,"



## A deal is a deal

As part of a deal between superintendent and elementary school principal Mark Spradling and his students in Middletown, Ohio, he agreed to spend 24 hours on the school's roof if the students raised more than \$55,000 during a recent walk-a-thon.

they should be OK, he said.

Researchers had attributed the deaths of several Alaska killer whales to the 1989 oil spill from the tanker Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound.

## Tire cleanup planned

**VA** RICHMOND — Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality plans to get rid of the 3 million discarded tires remaining at 342 dumps around the state over the next 18 months.

The launch of "Operation Clean Sweep" in November was announced by department director Robert Q. Burnley.

The department will award contracts of \$3 million to transport the old tires to processing facilities, a statement by Burnley said.

He said the cleanup project will be financed by a three-year increase in the recycling fee consumers pay when they buy tires.

The 2003 General Assembly raised the fee from 50 cents to \$1 per tire.

The bulk of the state's work is finished. When the cleanup effort began in 1992, 22.6 million tires littered the state.

## Boy abandoned

**TX** ARLINGTON — Neighbors at an apartment complex took turns caring for a young boy after his mother disappeared, waiting weeks to call police, authorities say.

The young boy, known as "Teddy," told neighbors he is 3 but may be as old as 5, one caretaker said.

His mother left him with a friend while she went to a store in July and never came back, so neighbors fed and cared for him, hoping "Julie" or "Julie Ann" would return.

"Many of them were under the impression that the mother would return," said Christy Gilfohr, an Arlington police spokesman.

Someone finally gave up on Sept. 14 and reported to police that the boy had been abandoned.

Police and Child Protective Services caseworkers released Teddy's picture and began telling his story in hopes of finding relatives or someone who knows his mother.

## Inmate with cancer

**NH** DOVER — A judge has refused to release an inmate who has cancer from the state prison, and the inmate said the ruling essentially is a death sentence.

Donald MacDonald, 78, of Alton, was convicted of running down three children in 1995, killing one and seriously injuring the others. He was sentenced on May 8, 1996.

MacDonald asked Judge Bruce E. Mohl that his sentence be reduced because he said he is likely to die of cancer in prison before being eligible for release, according to his motion. He was sentenced to 15 to 30 years for manslaughter and 3½ to seven years more for aggravated driving while intoxicated.

The ruling means MacDonald won't be eligible for parole until he is at least 88.



## Go-carting governor

Utah Gov. Olene Walker holds tight to the wheel of a miniature speedway car as she crosses the finish line in first place during the opening of the new Park Lane interchange in Farmington, Utah.



## Rippin' the road

A snowboarder rides down Mount Rose highway in Reno, Nev. An early winter storm that dumped at least a foot of snow on the high Sierra continued to batter Lake Tahoe, snarling traffic but boosting skiers' spirits.



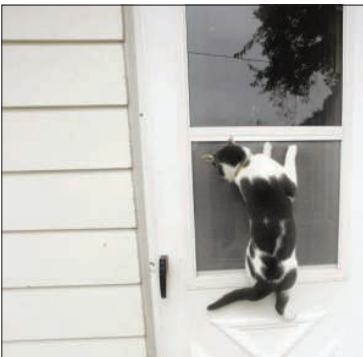
## Patriotic pupil

Kevin Cutrara, 10, dressed as Uncle Sam to encourage fellow students to head to the polls for the Kids Voting program at Lincoln Heights Elementary School in Charlotte, N.C.





**Well-deserved break** Michael Neel, 16, takes a break from cleaning up storm damage by swinging at some golf balls on property where his home used to be before a tornado demolished it Monday in Sardis, Ark.



**Clingy cat** George the cat looks into the house of his owner Cathy Scott at her home near Romney, Ind. This is George's way of letting the Scotts' know that she wants in.



**Pumpkin payroll** An Amish farmer drives a wagonload of pumpkins from his field to his barn in Hillsdale County, Mich. The Amish in this southern Michigan have many acres of pumpkins to harvest.

## Oyster payoff rejected

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — A \$1.3 billion judgment for south Louisiana oystermen who claimed a coastal restoration project ruined their business was thrown out by the state Supreme Court.

The case centered on a decision that the state should pay oystermen because of a 1991 freshwater diversion program that channeled some Mississippi River water and sediment into Breton Sound.

Oystermen, who leased water bottoms from the state for \$2 an acre a year, claimed that beds that had been cultivated for decades were destroyed.

A Plaquemines Parish jury valued the leases at \$21,345 an acre, which totaled about \$1.3 billion for the 130 oyster farmers in the class-action suit. Oystermen in nearby Lake Borgne later won a \$661 million judgment alleging similar damages to their leases.

## Cell phone rampage

**ND** FARGO — A Man who stripped to the waist, put on safety goggles and tore up a Verizon Wireless store after complaining of bad phone service has been sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Jason Peralta, 22, pleaded guilty to felony criminal mischief and misdemeanor assault in the rampage the company said cost it more than \$20,000 in broken equipment and lost sales.

The 5-foot-11, 200-pound former college wrestler said he had intended to only scream at the store workers, but when he tried to throw his cell phone against a wall, it hit a worker in the shoulder. He continued to destroy merchandise for several minutes while workers locked themselves in an office.

## Ambulance crash

**NY** NEW YORK — A cancer patient on his way to the hospital was killed when the ambulance transporting him was hit by an SUV, his family said.

Angel Gonzalez, 56, of Brooklyn, was in his wheelchair when the ambulance was hit and flipped over, police and his family said.

Gonzalez suffered neck and back injuries, his wheelchair landed on Santa Martinez, a family friend riding in the ambulance with him.

Martinez, 60, was in critical condition at Lutheran Medical Center.

Gonzalez was taken to the same hospital in critical condition and later died, a relative said.

## Guards' charges dropped

**NC** CHARLOTTE — A federal judge dismissed charges against two jail guards accused of beating an inmate, saying prosecutors had not proved their case.

The judge told Capt. Rodney Collins and former Sgt. Paul Gee they were free to leave the courtroom, ending a jury trial and setting off hugs and tears among the defense team and the guards' relatives.

The two were accused of beating Paul Dameron Midgett and violating the inmate's civil rights in May 2000 at the Mecklenburg County Jail.

U.S. District Court Judge Graham Mullen said prosecutors' failure to call the alleged victim to testify "created a vacuum" in the case.

## Youth inmate programs

**HI** HONOLULU — The state administration plans to introduce legislation next year to develop youth correctional facilities on the neighbor islands that would emphasize programs and counseling over detention, Gov. Linda Liner said.

Her comments came after a meeting in Utah with six of seven girls from Hawaii who were temporarily transferred from the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility to a detention center in Salt Lake City.

Linger said she was pleased with the detention center, adding she hopes Hawaii's youth justice system can transform itself over the next two years and become more like Utah's.

## Hacker hits Berkeley

**CA** BERKELEY — Federal and state officials are investigating the hacking of a University of California, Berkeley, computer containing Social Security numbers and other personal data for more than 1 million residents.

Officials say they haven't determined whether any personal data was taken and haven't seen signs of identity theft. The FBI, the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of State Services are investigating.

The database included home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth and Social Security numbers for recipients of In-Home Supportive Services, a program that provides assistance to the elderly and disabled.

## Licenses mixed up

**LA** AUSTIN — Possible identity theft is a concern for many Texans after the state Department of Public Safety said it misdirected about 800 drivers' licenses to the wrong addresses.

Only about 400 people have returned the errant licenses they received in recent weeks, the DPS said.

"Obviously, there's some concern," said DPS spokeswoman Trela Mangle.

State officials want anyone who gets a wrong license to return it to the nearest DPS office, Mangle said.

The culprit? "It's a new mail-sorting machine," she told The Dallas Morning News. "It's not behaving, so we've taken it off-line."

## Polygamists lose 8 kids

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Utah child welfare authorities removed eight children from a family belonging to a polygamist clan.

The children were taken from John Daniel Kingston and Heidi Mattingly, who have 11 children, including two teen girls who already have been removed from the home. The state did not take the couple's youngest child, a 3-month-old girl, who will remain with Mattingly.

At issue was a petition filed by the Guardian ad Litem's office — an independent agency that represents children in court — alleging abuse, neglect and efforts by the couple to block access to the children by state case workers.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES

## Gotham Awards to honor Cheadle

Don Cheadle and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" will be honored with Gotham Awards from the Independent Film Project.

On Dec. 1, Cheadle will receive the Gotham Actor Award for his body of work, while "Eternal Sunshine" will be honored with the organization's inaugural Celebrate New York Tribute.

"Don was such an obvious choice," IFP/New York President Michelle Byrd told The AP. "He's someone who very seamlessly goes between smaller independent productions to larger commercial movies. He's a consummate actor's actor."

Cheadle's screen credits include "Swordfish," "Traffic," the TV movie "The Rat Pack" and "Boogie Nights."

## Arquettes partner up with TBS

More reality comedies are coming to TBS, which plans to boost its new image as a comedy-centered network with quirky reality shows, not original sitcoms.

The Atlanta-based network announced deals with Coquette Productions, a Los Angeles firm owned by "Friends" star Courteney Cox Arquette and her husband, David Arquette, and Nash Entertainment, for an undisclosed number of reality sitcom pilots.

Terms of the agreements weren't disclosed.

Nash Entertainment produced this summer's "Outback Jack" comedy dating show that was TBS' first reality venture.

The network has two more original reality shows, "The Real Gilligan's Island," set to debut next month, and "He's a Lady," where men compete to see who can best live as a woman.

## Cruise throws a fast one

Tom Cruise threw out the ceremonial first pitch, but Alex Cabrera was the biggest star of Game 3 of the Japan Series.

Cabrera hit a grand slam in the seventh inning at Seibu Dome to lift the Pacific League champion Seibu Lions to a 10-8 win over the Chunichi Dragons and a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Cruise is in Tokyo to promote his film, "Collateral." The American actor, who is hugely popular in Japan, threw a pitch that was nearly 3 feet wide of the strike zone.

Cruise

"I'm very happy to be here," Cruise said. "That was a terrible pitch, but I love being here in Japan."

## Tennis star unsure of fashionable change

Andre Agassi's a bit skeptical about fashion models in skimpy outfits replacing ball boys at the Madrid Masters. "I suppose I need some time to let it absorb," the tennis star said at the indoor tournament. "I think it's important for our sport to understand its product clearly. And I'm not quite convinced it's part of our product."

Women in black tank tops and white, knee-length skirts chased errant shots and handed towels to the players. Reportedly paid \$1,100 for the week, the women are appearing in one televised match each day.

"It was difficult, to say the least, to concentrate on the ball," Agassi said. "But I suppose I had an advantage. I'm used to playing with my wife" — Steffi Graf.

He added: "The skirts look like they're a little difficult to run in. I think they need to be shorter, maybe."

## Actors support presidential nominees

"Titanic" star Leonardo DiCaprio stumped for John Kerry, while Fred Thompson of NBC's "Law & Order" campaigned for President Bush in Florida, one of the swing states in the presidential election.

DiCaprio spoke to some 400 students — mostly female — at the University of Central Florida, while 200 more waited outside.

The 29-year-old actor, who is registered as a Democrat in Los Angeles County, said it was the first time he had publicly supported a candidate.

Thompson, who was a delegate at the Republican National Convention, urged the crowd to do all it can to deliver Florida for the president.

Stories and photos from wire services

## Political books thrive during 2004 election



Hendrick Hertzberg, political writer for The New Yorker magazine, says 2004 is the first year in which books have been published specifically for the presidential election.

Editor's note: Arts and entertainment have long converged with politics. But this year, something different is in the air — and on movie screens, in bookstores, on the radio, and everywhere else media is consumed.

This is the fifth part of a six-part series.

BY HILLEL ITALIE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For those who follow politics, especially those who oppose President Bush, books have never seemed so essential.

According to R.R. Bowker, which compiles publishing statistics, 972 books on U.S. politics and government have come out, or are scheduled to come out, this election year. That's more than double the 400 released in 1992, when Bill Clinton defeated the first President Bush, and well above the 783 that were published in 2000.

The numbers are unprecedented; so is the impact. Insider accounts such as Ron Suskind's "The Price of Loyalty" and Richard Clarke's "Against All Enemies" helped shape public perception of the Bush administration's war against terrorism. "Unfit for Command," by John O'Neill and Jerome Corsi, proved a best-selling complement to the anti-John Kerry TV commercials sponsored by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth.

Why so many books? And why do they matter? The AP spoke recently about political books, both current and past, with Hendrick Hertzberg, a senior editor at The New Yorker who has been covering presidential campaigns since 1964 and has a recently published anthology of his work: "Politics: Observations & Arguments, 1966-2004."

Why have books been so much more important to the election this year than they have in the past?

I think it's partly that this is the first time that the entire government has been under the control of conservatives, not just the presidency but both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court.

Another factor is because of 9/11, the mainstream press shielded away from tough coverage of the administration during a crucial period. So book writers charged into the vacuum. And the kind of people writing these books, on the whole, tend to be unsympathetic to the policies of the Bush administration.

So you recall any previous election when books were so important?

Not that I remember.

Books centered around the election and published for the election? No, this is something new.

Bush is hardly the first president to be considered divisive. Similar things were said about Nixon and Reagan.

Why didn't they inspire as many books?

There were a lot of books about Nixon and Reagan, and at the time we might have said it was an unprecedented outpouring.

But Nixon, for example, was president during a period when there was a lot of sympathy for reform of one kind or another and Nixon was involved in that. Agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) were founded while Nixon was president.

The opposition to Bush is across the board: abortion, the environment, taxes, fiscal policy, civil liberties. The passionate opposition to Nixon was in the context of the Vietnam War, much more than domestic policy. And Vietnam was an issue that divided the Democratic Party as well.

This year, we've had books that really affected the way people see the candidates. Have there been books in previous years that did the same?

A: In 1960, you had Arthur Schlesinger's book, "Kennedy or Nixon: Does It Make a Difference?" A lot of liberal Democrats were unenthusiastic about Kennedy... for various reasons. And the Republican Party was dominated by moderates, Eisenhower Republicans.

So Schlesinger (a Kennedy supporter and leading liberal) felt he had to make the case that there was a real difference. The book became important among a relatively narrow segment of the public, but that election was extremely close, so close that virtually any factor could claim to be the decisive one.

What about Al Gore's "Earth in the Balance," a best seller in the '92 campaign (when Gore was Bill Clinton's running mate)?

It probably helped get him on the ticket. And it established the environmental credentials of the Democratic ticket. It had an impact, and it was also an attack point for the Republicans. They mined that book for quotes that they could make fun of, especially during the 2000 election.

There was a time when insider books like Ron Suskind's "The Price of Loyalty" (a collaboration with former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill), would have never come out until after the president had left office. It was considered in bad taste. Why has that changed?

A: This is partly a matter of market economics, the lucrative book deal is a relatively recent phenomenon. You had a bubbling of it during the Clinton impeachment — when everybody wanted a book deal.

And I think a lot of information in the books we've been talking about might have come out in magazine or newspaper stories if they hadn't been held back to add to the value of books. A lot of the stuff in Bob Woodward's book "Plan of Attack" could have been front-page news if it had been dribbled out over time.











# Horoscope

The sun makes its annual appearance in Scorpio, bringing a mysterious vibration. Is something brewing under the surface that needs addressing? The intuitive qualities of this solar passage will make you pinpoint just what it is, whether it's a problem not previously recognized, a secret desire or a major life event that's about to happen.

Joyce Jillson



## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(October 22).** You do what you please this year and, as a result, have one of your most satisfying years to date! Take excellent care of yourself, and educate yourself well through November and December — what you learn could make you rich! New influences wait in your life in February, and one of these attractive people could change your life forever.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Stay focused on what's in the realm of now instead of worrying about what will likely never happen. The news media, scary Internet spam and stories from friends could cause a vague sense of dread. Who needs it?

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's fun and good times from the moment you open your eyes, and what's even better is you're the life of the party. It seems that no matter what you choose to do, you'll turn it into a game or an adventure.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're self-directed and will become easily agitated by anyone who challenges your position. With a smile and a nod, you ward off bossy people — don't they know that if anyone is the boss, it's you?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Building your wealth has much to do with building your network now. But don't let the idea overwhelm you. Start small — one or two new contacts — and you get going in a better financial direction.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Though you're full of energy and would love to rush into new activities, friendships and jobs, it's better to use

finesse. Come on slowly. Remember that many worthwhile pursuits and people take time to get to know.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll be the one to organize things. Being the instigator gives you a chance to express yourself creatively and also to be well thought of by others as someone who can step up and take the heat.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Relationships don't always go according to plan, so you've got to be flexible. Anticipated events may not work out — for no good reason. It's just the way things go. Don't give much thought to these bumps in the road.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You could be cynical, but it takes so much energy. And in the end, what harm does it do when someone believes things that you do not? Let others have their beliefs. Together-ness is more important than agreeing.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Even though you're probably not concerned about adding anyone to your circle, you'll be attracting new people whether you want to or not. New folks will raise the bar in terms of what you can expect from your buddies.

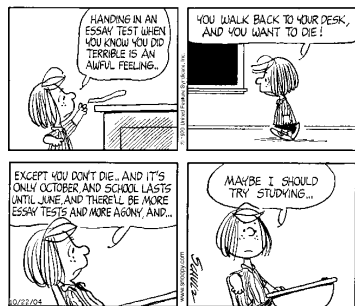
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You care passionately about what happens to your loved ones. There's a fine line between getting involved and trying to control situations that are not best controlled by you. Give others as much autonomy as possible.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Though it seems all will be sunk if you make the wrong decision, you actually have less to lose than you imagine. Go out on a limb. You'll be tempted to talk more than you need to, but there's not much to discuss.

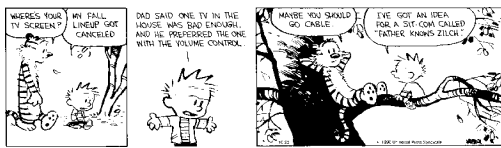
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Gentle modifications in the way you talk to others will bring fascinating results. You'll find people are listening intently to you and asking more questions. There's an opportunity for gift giving. Try something simple, subtle and small.

Creators Syndicate

## Peanuts



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



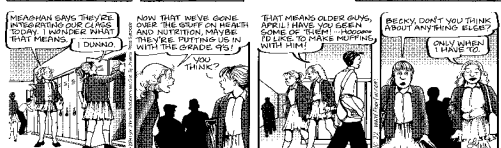
## Beetle Bailey



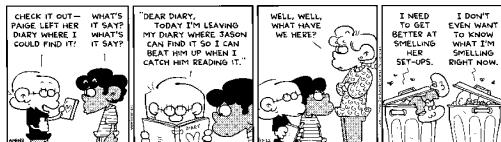
## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



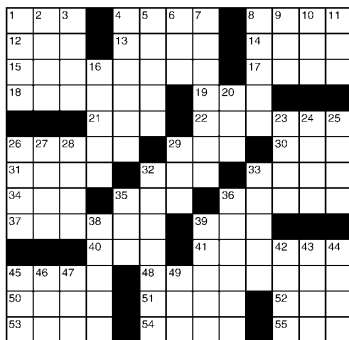
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Sixth sense
- 4 Hood's knife
- 8 Round of applause
- 12 Moo — gal pan
- 13 Headlight?
- 14 Andrea Bocelli album
- 15 All over the world
- 17 Hinge (on)
- 18 Mum
- 19 Computer program, for short
- 21 "— De-Lovely"
- 22 Archie's daughter
- 26 Great pain
- 29 Crucial
- 30 "Not only that, ..."
- 31 Group of cronies
- 32 Russian spacecraft
- 33 Snack
- 34 Chic no longer
- 35 Auction action
- 36 Criminal
- 37 "Lethal Weapon" actor
- 39 Completely
- 40 McKinley's first lady
- 41 Layover, to Shirley
- 45 Imposture
- 48 Mills Brothers classic
- 50 Incite
- 51 Relaxation
- 52 "What Kind of Fool —?"
- 53 Existed
- 54 Took off
- 55 Writer

## Down

- 1 Early birds?
- 2 One's performances
- 3 Combine resources
- 4 Hut
- 5 Brings to an end
- 6 Under the weather
- 7 Capt. Janeway's ship
- 8 Wintrey's production company
- 9 Exist
- 10 Zero
- 11 Rotation duration
- 16 Personality
- 20 Thickness
- 23 Racetrack boundary
- 24 Liking a lot
- 25 Yemen city
- 26 Flabbergasted
- 27 France, once
- 28 Aware of
- 29 Tease
- 32 Illusions
- 33 Downstairs
- 35 Pepsy's destination
- 36 Moved smoothly
- 38 Prancer's yolemata
- 39 Obayed reveille
- 42 Lamentation
- 43 Cookbook compiler
- 44 Rombauer
- 45 Send forth
- 46 Boston, with "The"
- 47 Raw rock
- 48 Census start
- 49 Once around

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-22

CRYPTOQUIP

YBAC J QJOQAO ULMKAA  
JC HVVNXXAO'U BJNO.  
XHZKT MHZ UJM BA BJT

J QOZUB YNLB LBA KJY?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE GUM-  
CHEWING TOURNAMENT, THE OFFICIAL RULES  
WERE FULL OF BUBBLE STANDARDS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals R







# Vikings feel they have a leg up even without hamstrung Moss

By ANDRES YBARRA  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — No. 84 was back at practice for the Minnesota Vikings on Wednesday.

Well, not quite. It was actually Kelly Campbell wearing Randy Moss' purple jersey. Moss was resting his strained right hamstring.

"Somebody had to be Randy Moss today," Campbell said with a grin. "Practice ain't a practice without 84's jersey being out there on the field."

Campbell — even with his flamboyant personality and big-play potential — isn't Moss. But the wide receiver trio of Campbell, Moss and Robinson and Nate Burleson proved, for a half at least, that it's a decent substitute. And it looks as if they will again have the chance to prove their worth this weekend without the Vikings' All-Pro receiver.

Whether Moss, injured in the second quarter of Sunday night's victory at New Orleans, plays Sunday against Tennessee will be decided at game time. But coach Mike Tice cautioned that he won't play Moss prematurely and risk losing him for more games.

"We're going to be very, very intelligent about it," Tice said Wednesday.

The sight of Moss lying on the field and calling for team trainers against the Saints scared Vikings fans half to death. It scared the fans, but not the rest of the Minnesota receivers.

"You could see the look in their eyes," All right. Here we go. We'll do fine, Coach. Just keep throwing us the ball," offensive coordinator Sam Linehan said. "That was the whole mood at halftime. We knew Randy was going

to be out the second half. There was never a sense of 'What are we going to do?'"

Burleson had six catches for 134 yards and Robinson caught two touchdowns passes in the 38-31 victory at New Orleans. Daunte Culpepper threw two TD passes to tight end Jermaine Wiggins, and running back Mewelde Moore caught seven balls for 78 yards.

There's no debating Minnesota will lose some of its edge without Moss, but the other receivers are confident.

"Moss is a great guy, he makes exceptional plays, but we all feel that we can make those plays," Robinson said. "That's what we should feel like."

In the last few years, losing Moss for a game would have been devastating.

When Chris Carter left after the 2001 season, the Vikings struggled to find a dependable No. 2 wideout. Derrick Alexander and Dwayne Bates had chances, but were injury-plagued busts.

Burleson started a few games his rookie season when Bates was injured, and Campbell established a reputation as a playmaker.

Still, the receiving corps seemed incomplete.

When Robinson, a veteran offensive acquisition, pulled in two touchdown receptions two weeks ago in Houston — including the game-winning 50-yard score — it began to look as if the Vikings had finally found Moss' new running mate.

Some of the Vikings' five TD catches have been in the past two games.

"You have another guy who's also tall, got



Minnesota's Nate Burleson caught six passes for 134 yards last week at New Orleans.

strong good hands," Campbell said, comparing Robinson to Moss. "Our receiver corps, you've got anything you could want. You've got guys who can run, you've got speed, you've got quickness. You've got guys who are tall who can catch the big balls."

Burleson has solidified his spot alongside Moss and Robinson in the three-receiver sets. With a full season under his belt, Burleson seems more comfortable in Linehan's system and has a knack for making difficult catches.

If Moss can't play Sunday, Campbell will step into the three-wideout set. Although he drew Tice's wrath for coming off the sideline in Houston and drawing a costly taunting penalty, Campbell is a speedy, viable deep threat who can help spread the defense.

Campbell is averaging 20.9 yards per catch, the best among Minnesota's receivers.

"Luckily for us, we have some guys who are big gamers," Culpepper said.

# Police link drinking to Coleman's wreck

The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Atlanta Falcons defensive tackle Rod Coleman swayed to avoid a deer and

flipped his luxury car, authorities said

Wednesday, finally revealing details of a mysterious wreck last weekend.

Coleman, who needed minor knee surgery and will miss his second straight game, had been drinking but wasn't considered under the influence.

The information emerged during a surreal day of vague responses and testy exchanges between coach Jim Mora and the media.

Hall County sheriff's Capt. Jeff Strickland, citing an accident report, said Coleman wrecked at 4:30 a.m. EDT Saturday.

"It says the driver stated, 'A deer ran in front of me, I tried to avoid the collision and I over-turned,'" Strickland said. "It was checked that he did not receive a blood test for alcohol or drugs. It did indicate he had been drinking, but it was not impaired."

Coleman walked to a nearby fire station or residence, where someone reported an accident. When an officer arrived at the scene, he gave Coleman a series of field sobriety tests, "which he passed. The officer indicated that he did not feel (the player) was impaired."

The NFL said Coleman wouldn't face disciplinary action

because he wasn't charged. But the team may take action for the early morning wreck.

"I'm sure discipline will be considered," general manager Rick McKay said. "I'm under the impression Rod has been forthright from the start."

Mora was annoyed when questioned about why the team appeared so reluctant to discuss the accident.

"No one's been secretive," he insisted. "We're not obligated to speak to the media about injuries until Wednesday after practice."

Mora glanced at his watch. "It's Wednesday after practice," he continued. "We're addressing injuries."

Mora finally disclosed that Coleman underwent arthroscopic surgery on Tuesday after damaging the medial collateral ligament and meniscus in his left knee. He also has a bruised shoulder.

That was about it as far as actual details from the team.

**Chiefs RB Johnson's locker roped off by yellow tape**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In an amusing twist to a possibly demoralizing controversy, the Kansas City Chiefs found yellow caution tape surrounding running back Larry Johnson's locker.

The kind of tape used to rope off disaster sites stretched about six feet into the room in front of the stall of Johnson on Wednesday. A first-round pick in 2003 who has been complaining about being a third stringer, Johnson was fur-

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis for each. Pay for complete injury report (most on the league's Web site).

**Bills:** Lawyer Milloy (forearm) expected to play.

**Browns:** WR Andre Davis (leg) questionable; OG Kelvin Gamble (foot) questionable.

**Buccaners:** WR Joe Jurevicius (knee, back) expected to play.

**Cardinals:** WR Anquan Boldin (knee) expected to play.

**Jaguars:** QB Byron Leftwich (ankle) expected to play.

**Vikings:** WR Randy Moss (hamstring) questionable.

ous Tuesday when he was not traded on trade deadline day.

"You can't do too much when you have an offensive coordinator who doesn't trust you and a head coach who never wanted you in the first place," Johnson was quoted as saying in The Kansas City Star on Wednesday.

Johnson insisted the tape was an idea he and fullback Tony Richardson hatched to try to lighten the situation for a 1-4 team already under strain.

It worked. Players coming in from practice roared at the joke. "I told T-Rich to do this," he was poking fun at me anyway," said Johnson, inactive for three of five games. "We're just having fun about it. I told T-Rich we should do something, just be dumb about it, and that's what we did."

Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said that he didn't know about the yellow tape until he saw it.

"Those things are for you guys to make a living with, not me," he told reporters. "The problem's

been addressed. It's not a serious problem. It never has been."

## Raiders fans call for Tuiasosopo

ALAMEDA, Calif. — When an offense is ineffective, the backup quarterback quickly becomes a fan favorite.

The unforgiving Raider Nation is already calling for Marques Tuiasosopo to get a shot for Oakland in place of struggling starter Kerry Collins — less than a month after they campaigned for Collins to replace Rich Gannon.

They started chanting "Tui! Tui!" in the second half of the Raiders' 31-3 loss to Denver last Sunday. Oakland's third straight defeat and its worst at home against its archrival in 44 games. The same thing used to happen to Tuiasosopo when he was Brock Huard's backup at the University of Washington.

Fans have taken to booing Collins from the moment he steps onto the field for each series.

"That certainly wasn't the first time I've ever been booed," Collins said Wednesday. "It happens to all quarterbacks. It certainly is something you don't want to happen, but if you play long enough, it does. I mean, I understand. They expect more, and they deserve more."

Collins has completed 80 of 140 passes, thrown for only two touchdowns and been picked off eight times for a dismal quarterback rating of 55.8 in 3 1/2 games since Gannon broke a vertebra in his neck Sept. 26.

# Sprint: Glut of 1 1/2-mile tracks leads to boredom

SPRINT, FROM PAGE 27

to juice the excitement? Or at least offer enough variety so there was less vanilla and more Rocky Road?

As much as I enjoy the high speeds and uncertainty of Texas Motor Speedway, the thought of five 1 1/2-mile speedways on the 2005 Chase schedule makes me cringe. Give me a tad more. Give me another short pit. Just please don't make me sit through another boring race on a cookie-cutter track.

Yes, the argument can be made that the test cookie cutter is overused when describing the series 1 1/2-mile speedways on the Nextel Cup circuit.

Each has different characteristics, and many vary in banking. A car that is raced at night, as was the case last Saturday at Charlotte, takes a completely different setup from what would be used in daylight. But I guarantee the same cast of characters that ran up front at Charlotte will be the same guys we see leading on Halloween at Atlanta.

So what tracks should be included to add entertainment value to the Chase?

NBC producer Sam Flood knows what it takes to tantalize a TV audience, but he wasn't consulted when the Chase schedule was devised.

"When this deal was brought to us, we had no idea it was even happening," Flood says. "The 10 races were already established. NASCAR has always done a good job of setting up the schedule, so we try to stay out of that. But in a fantasy world, you love Richmond. You love Bristol. Those are the two races that somehow ought to be in the Chase."

Flood does not advocate moving a Daytona race to the season finale.

He says the improvements made to Homestead last season created "one of the great tracks" for NASCAR racing, whereas at a track such as Daytona, drivers are unable "to control their own destiny."

Well, I like Richmond where it is. Talk about drivers not being able to control their destinies — the Chase wasn't determined until the final lap of the September race at Richmond. The anticipation throughout the race was worth more than the price of admission.

## Nextel Cup schedule

Oct. 24 — Subway 500, Martinsville, Va.

Oct. 31 — Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500, Hampton, Ga.

Nov. 7 — Checker Auto Parts 500, Avondale, Ariz.

Nov. 14 — Mountain Dew Pentax 400, Darlington, S.C.

Nov. 21 — Ford 400, Homestead, Fla.

# Hammer gets to keep his gymnastics gold

BY NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

Paul Hamm can keep his Olympic gold medal.

Sports' highest court rejected a South Korean appeal Thursday, ruling that Hamm is the rightful champion in the men's all-around gymnastics competition in the Athens Games.

"This is, obviously, a great day for me," Hamm said. "The decision from CAS confirms what I've always felt in my heart, which is that I was champion that night and Olympic gold medalist."

The decision by a three-judge panel of the Court of Arbitration for Sport ends a saga that began more than two months ago when South Korea's Yang Tae-young claimed a scoring error cost him the title.

Yang asked the court to order international gymnastics officials to change the results, and adjust the medal rankings so he would get the gold and Hamm the silver. But the CAS panel dismissed the appeal, leaving Hamm with the gold and Yang with his bronze. Kim Dae-eun of South Korea was the silver medalist.

The verdict is final and cannot be appealed.

"An error identified with the benefit of hindsight, whether admitted or not, cannot be a ground for reversing a result of a competition," the CAS panel said.

Yang said he accepted the CAS decision and doesn't want to think about it anymore. "I will perform better in the future so that such an error won't happen again," he said. "I won't stop here. My plan is to train very hard and win a gold in the next Olympics in Beijing."

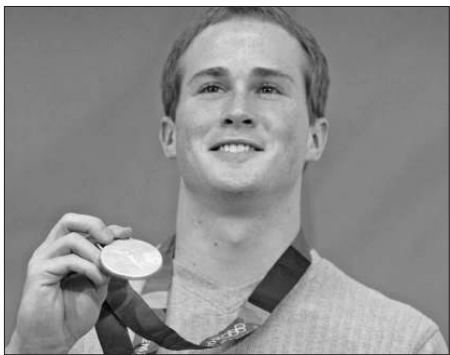
Hamm won the gold Aug. 18, rallying from 12th place with only two events left to become the first American man to win gymnastics' biggest prize.

Two days later, gymnastics officials discovered that Yang had been wrongly docked a tenth of a point on his second-to-last routine, the parallel bars.

Yang ended up with the bronze, 0.049 points behind Hamm. Add that extra 0.100, then Yang would have finished on top, 0.051 points ahead of the American.

That, however, assumes everything in the final rotation played out the same way — a big if.

"For a variety of reasons related to the reality of athletic competition and the human psyche, simply changing the parallel bars result would not necessarily... produce the true outcome," said Jeff Benz, general counsel for the U.S. Olympic Committee.



With an appeal overruled Thursday, Paul Hamm gets to keep his gymnastics gold medal.

The International Gymnastics Federation acknowledged the scoring error and suspended three judges. But it said repeatedly it would not change the results because the South Koreans didn't protest until after the meet.

In their ruling, the CAS arbitrators said the Korean protest was submitted too late — and added that CAS was not in a position to correct results even if a mistake were admitted.

The solution for error, either way, lies within the framework of the sport's own rules" and does not allow for a judge or arbitrator to step in later, the CAS panel said.

Hamm said he was heartened by the decision not just for his sake, but for athletes in all sports.

"It keeps the integrity of the sport by ending the competition that night," he said. "You need that. People will lose interest if the decision isn't made until a week later."

Or in his case, more than two months later.

"This process has been difficult, and I would have liked not to have to deal with it," Hamm said. "It was something I had to deal with, and I'm just glad that it's over at this point."

The South Koreans continued to press their case in Athens after FIG rejected their appeal, approaching both the USOC and the International Olympic Committee in hopes of getting Yang a gold medal. It brought back memories of the figure skating scandal at the Salt Lake City Games in 2002, when Canadians Jamie Sale and David Pelletier were given duplicate gold medals after a French judge said she had been "pressured" to put a Russian couple ahead of them.

There were no such signs of impropriety in this case, and IOC president Jacques Rogge flatly refused to even consider the idea of giving Yang a gold medal. The IOC said Thursday it welcomed the CAS decision, noting "its position has always been to say that the gold medal was awarded according to the FIG's results to Paul Hamm."

But then FIG president Bruno Grandi confused the issue, writing a letter to Hamm during the games and asking him to surrender the gold medal voluntarily. In the letter, Grandi wrote, "The true winner of the all-around competition is Yang Tae-young."

Hamm got the letter after he returned to the United States, and he said it was proba-

bly his "toughest time" in the whole episode.

"That's one thing I would really love to have is an apology from FIG," Hamm said. "I thought they handled the situation very poorly."

Indeed, buoyed by Grandi's statement, Yang filed an appeal on the final day of the games with CAS.

A three-judge panel heard Yang's appeal on Sept. 27, six weeks after the men's all-around. Benz argued there was no basis for changing the medals standings because there was no guarantee Yang would have won the gold, not for the scoring error. He also argued that "field of play" decisions — judgment calls by officials during competitions — were not subject to review by CAS.

Though Hamm had to wait another three weeks for the verdict, he and his family were optimistic after the hearing.

"The Koreans did not protest during the meet, that's just not the way you do it," said Hamm's father, Sandy. "It's just not reasonable to ask a court to go in and change medals based on what might have happened."

Hamm said he learned of the court's decision when he woke up around 6:15 a.m. EDT Thursday and found a message from his agent, Sheryl Shady. He called his girlfriend to tell her the news, then spent the next few hours in a whirlwind of meetings with attorneys and advisers.

Close by the whole time was his gold medal, a medal he now knows he can keep for the rest of his life. He'd left it at his childhood home in Waukegan, Wis., for safekeeping while the controversy was brewing — not wanting to risk damaging it just in case he had to give it back.

"It feels like it's mine now. If I were to damage it in any way, it wouldn't be going to anyone else. If I ruin it, it's mine to ruin," he said last week. "Now I'll be able to put it in a safe place and leave it there."

The tug-of-war over the medal overshadowed Hamm's performance, one of the greatest in the history of men's gymnastics.

The defending world champion appeared to lose a chance at any medal, let alone the gold, when he botched the landing of his vault, and then fell backward, plopping down on a judges' table. His score of 9.137 dropped him to 12th place with only two events left.

But one by one, the gymnasts above him faltered. And Hamm was spectacular, closing with a pair of 9.837s on the parallel bars and high bar to win the gold.

"There's been a lot of fighting for this medal," Hamm said.

"I think it'll mean that much more, that I'll be able to keep it for the rest of my life."

## V. Williams holds off teen in Swisscom Challenge

The Associated Press

ZURICH, Switzerland — Former champion Venus Williams was pushed to two tiebreakers over two hours by a 16-year-old qualifier before reaching the quarterfinals of the \$1.3 million Swisscom Challenge on Thursday.

The seventh-seeded Williams held off Ana Ivanovic of Serbia-Montenegro 7-6 (3-1), 7-6 (8-6) and will now Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova on Friday.

Elena Dementieva, the highest remaining seeded player at No. 3, downed Elena Bovina 7-5, 3-6, 6-0 in an all-Russian second-round match, and will take on No. 9 Ai Sugiyama of Japan.

Tenth-seeded hometown favor-

### Sports briefs

ite Patty Schnyder downed Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia 6-4, 6-3 and faces Paola Suarez of Argentina, who advanced when Emilie Loit of France retired after aggravating a left leg injury while trailing 6-1, 2-2.

Ivanovic, who won her first ever tour match in the previous round, gave 1999 champ Williams a battle, rallying from 4-1 behind in the first set and saving a set point at 6-5 to force the tiebreaker.

Williams led the second set 4-2 before being caught again, and Ivanovic led 6-3 in the tiebreaker only to have Williams battle back.

### Clement surprise leader of Madrid Open

MADRID, Spain — Julien Clement of Switzerland shot a 7-under 64 Thursday to take the first-round lead in the Madrid Open.

Johan Edfors of Sweden and Terry Price of Australia were two shots behind.

Colin Montgomerie bogeyed two of the first three holes, but three straight birdies starting at the 11th helped him wind up 3-under for the day. Trevor Immelman, taken to the hospital Wednesday after an allergic reaction to a bee sting, was at 67.

Clement birdied five of the last seven holes. He failed to make the cut in his last eight tournaments.

### Hamilton insists he'll be cleared of blood doping

DENVER — Olympic gold medal cyclist Tyler Hamilton says he will clear his name during a January hearing in Colorado, and asks critics and supporters for patience over his positive test for blood doping last month.

Hamilton, a former skiing star at the University of Colorado, faces a potential two-year ban from cycling after tests taken during the Spanish Vuelta race indicated he had received a blood transfusion to boost his endurance.

An initial test taken at the Athens Olympics also pointed to blood doping, but he was cleared because the backup specimen

mistakenly was frozen and there were too few red blood cells remaining for a valid test.

The Marblehead, Mass., native told The Denver Post on Wednesday that his lawyers and his Swiss-based Phonak cycling team are working to prove the tests at the Vuelta were invalid.

### Nets' Thorn signs extension

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — New Jersey Nets president Rod Thorn signed a five-year contract extension on Thursday.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed but Thorn is expected to earn between \$20 million and \$25 million.

Thorn transformed the Nets from one of the NBA's worst teams into a championship contender after taking over in 2000.

# RACING STRIPES

## A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

### Cup chase has become a three-man race

#### Many expect Gordon to win his fifth title

BY JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Everything went wrong for Kurt Busch and Jeff Gordon in the fifth round of NASCAR's championship chase.

Still, neither lost ground in their pursuit of the Nextel Cup.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. has to be wondering what it will take to reclaim the top position. He did everything right at Lowe's Motor Speedway, finished third in the race, and still trails Busch by 24 points in the standings with Gordon closing in behind him.

How so? Because Busch and Gordon were able to overcome every obstacle thrown their way.

From a lap-one accident involving both to late-race spins and dodging spilled oil on the track, they proved to be championship contenders. Busch finished fourth, two spots behind Gordon.

"I've just got to keep finishing ahead of them," an exasperated Earnhardt said. "Kurt's got his 'A' game. We've got our 'A' game going on right now. We've just got to keep having the same kind of weekend. You just try to get what you can get."

The sixth round of the Chase is Sunday at Martinsville, Va., and for all practical purposes, it's a three-man race.

Unless all three of the top drivers have massive problems — and two of them did in Charlotte but still managed to overcome them — there's no way the rest of the contenders can challenge.

It's unlikely they'll gain ground at Martinsville, where all three of the lead drivers have fine records.

■ Busch has two Martinsville wins, including one in 2002 from the 36th starting position, the farthest back a race winner has started here.

■ Earnhardt has five consecutive top-five finishes at Martinsville, the longest top-five streak among all active driver.

■ Gordon is the Martinsville master. In 22 starts, he has five victories, five poles, 12 top-fives and 17 top-10s. He swept both poles and races in 2003, and has led 46 percent of the laps during the past three races.

When reminded the scene was shifting

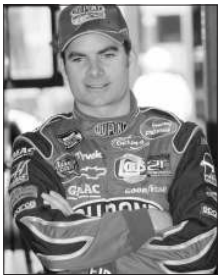


AP

Last week in Charlotte, N.C., points leader Kurt Busch wrecked in practice, wrecked on the first lap of the race, avoided another accident and still finished fourth.

To Martinsville, Gordon shouted with glee. But a new surface on the Virginia short track has him worried.

"I wish they hadn't repaved Martinsville because I think we had a big edge on the competition with the old conditions," he said. "The new conditions are closing the competition up on us a little bit."



AP

Jeff Gordon was involved in a wreck in the first lap, later spun out and managed to finish second last week in "probably the greatest comeback I've ever experienced."

Busch used one of his team testing sessions to practice on the new surface, and knows it will present challenges.

"The new surface there is going to provide for a different type of racing," he said. "It's going to be single-file for a while and a matter of staying out of trouble."

"Another element that's going to be new



AP

Dale Earnhardt is feeling the sting of his 25-point penalty for cursing in a post-race TV interview earlier this month. He trails points leader Kurt Busch by 24 points.

To Martinsville is the center of corner speed. There are going to be guys that gain so much speed through the center of the corner on somebody that you've got to protect your radiator."

All 10 of the contenders have proved capable of adapting, but none are better than Gordon. That's why several competitors are picking the fourth-time series champion to have a fifth title at the end of the season.

Gordon isn't denying the logic.

"A lot of the members of this team were here when we won the championship in 2001," he said. "The chemistry, on top of the experience we have, allows us to be a very good team and make comebacks."

Gordon should excel this weekend. He should have earned his sixth Martinsville race in the spring, but a chunk of concrete broke loose and damaged his car after he led 180 of the first 272 laps.

It took four pit stops to finish the damage, and Gordon still managed a sixth-place finish.

"We would love to win this thing, but it's hard to pick anybody who is a favorite right now," Gordon said. "I know the past experience plays a role, but when you look at the way the championship is this year, I just think it's putting the best car and team out there week in and week out."

## Sprint to the finish is off track

BY LEE SPENCER

The Sporting News

What's the first rule of real estate? Location, location, location.

The same could be said for the Chase for the NASCAR Nextel Cup schedule. It's the halfway point in the Chase, and it just hasn't packed the punch it promised.

Fans might assume plenty of thought went into constructing the schedule for the final 10 races — but was there anything at all? With the exception of the Southern 500 — one of NASCAR's classic races but soon to be extinct — this year's lineup looks similar to the way it did be-

fore Kansas got a

five-mile track and a

fall Cup race.

So is it any surprise that during the 24 hours of Charlotte, the second of three 1½-milers in a four-race stretch of the Nextel Cup schedule, I was already fumbling for my Stacker 2 and Starbucks before the first 100 laps were completed?

If NASCAR was going to go to the Chase format, why didn't it pick its most entertaining tracks for the final 10 races

SEE SPRINT ON PAGE 25

## BUSCH SERIES

This week: Sam's Town 250 at Memphis, Tenn.

Last race: Michael Bliss made a

three-wide pass to take the lead, then

held off a charging Matt Kenseth to win

the SpongetoB 300 at Concord, N.C.

Last year: Giancarlo Fisichella was de-

clared the winner of the Brazilian Grand

Prix five days after Kimi Raikkonen took

the checkered flag. Circuit officials

ruled that Fisichella was leading before

the race was stopped due to numerous

crashes and spins on the

rain-soaked track.

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# ALCS collapse was team effort for N.Y.

## Fabled franchise humbled by unprecedented series defeat

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alex Rodriguez sat in front of his locker, slumped in a folding chair, dirt stains still splattered on his pinstriped pants.

No reason to rush home, no more games to get ready for. Just a long winter left to wonder why he and his teammates couldn't close out this playoff series with the championship poised the New York Yankees used to be known for.

"It's not the same team," captain Derek Jeter said. "We've had teams that have been good at it, but this is not the same team."

No, it certainly is not.

After 86 years of domination in baseball's most bitter rivalry, the Yankees finally folded against the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night, losing 10-3 in Game 7 of the AL championship series.

Hard to believe this fabled franchise could come apart in such an epic collapse. Right here, at their hallowed home, in the shadow of all that history, all the monuments, all the banners.

"I'm embarrassed right now," Rodriguez said. "Obviously that hurts — watching our field celebrating."

This was much more than a season-ending defeat — it was an unprecedented choke job. Just three outs from a sweep on Sunday, the Yankees dropped four games in a row, becoming the first team in postseason baseball history to blow a 3-0 lead in a best-of-seven series.

"I wish my eyes were closed and I could open them now," reliever Tom Gordon said. "It could have been over in four. It's a tough one to bite. ... Just have to get past this."

It's never happened in the NBA. It's happened only twice in the NHL.

And now the Yankees, the most storied team in all of sports, are right at the top of a humbling list.

"I could care less about that," Jeter said. "I don't know how you can rank failure. You win or you lose."

It will be a painful piece of infamy for everyone in pinstripes.

And it will certainly bring the wrath of owner George Steinbrenner this winter — probably sooner.

New York has now gone four years without winning the World Series. Rodriguez is still looking for his first ring, as are Mike Mussina, Hideki Matsui and Jason Giambi.

"It's such a long season and when you're so close to your goal, it's going to hurt all winter," Rodriguez said.

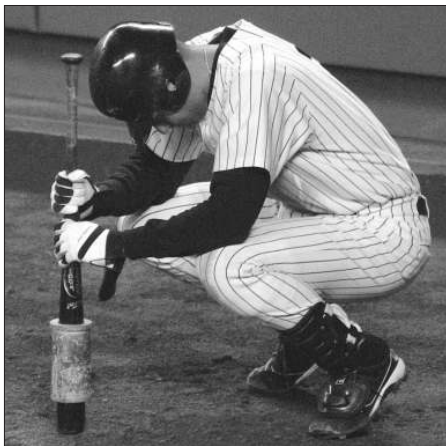
When pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra grounded to second for the final out, the Red Sox rushed to the mound and celebrated their trip to the World Series in the middle of Yankee Stadium. Boston fans chanted and cheered behind the third-base dugout.

It was a sight many New Yorkers thought they'd never have to witness. The Yankees are the team that pulls off improbable comebacks — especially against Boston.

Not this time.

"It makes it worse. But we've been on the success side of this thing, not just against them. Now I'm getting my share of the losing end," general manager Brian Cashman said.

After winning the first three games of the series, New York just couldn't finish it off. Star reliever Mariano Rivera had his chance — a ninth-inning lead in Game 4 at



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter waits in the on-deck circle in the sixth inning against the Boston Red Sox in Game 7 of the ALCS on Wednesday.

Fenway Park. He blew the save, Boston won in 12 innings, then rallied again for a 14-inning victory in Game 5.

When the Yankees returned home, it was no better. Curt Schilling shut down New York in Game 6, and panic began to set in.

New York trotted out all the mystique it could muster for Game 7. The scoreboard played a tribute to Mickey Mantle before the game. Bucky Dent threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Yogi Berra.

A sign hanging high above home plate reminded the Red Sox of the B's who have tortured them, with one hoped-for addition: "Babe, Bucky, Buckner, Boone, Brown!"

But Kevin Brown was awful, and Boston had a "B" of its own in response — for blow-out. New York dropped to 10-2 in the ALCS.

"History would have told them to give up. It didn't matter to them," Gordon said. "They didn't just fold the tent."

The Yankees were listless in the last two games, managing only five runs and 11 hits.

After taking the big lead, they got complacent. They didn't steal on knuckleballer Tim Lincecum. They didn't try to bunt against Schilling and his gimpy ankle. They failed to move runners in extra innings.

And even with a \$183 million opening day payroll, New York ran out of pitching in the end.

"The series obviously turned in that Game 4. Then the momentum started going their way and we just couldn't hold 'em off. We obviously broke down in a number of areas," Cashman said. "We'll start working on our offseason. That's what we do win or lose — just start earlier than we thought."

# Brown might have let down Yankees for last time

By TARA SULLIVAN

The Record (Bergent County, N.J.)

NEW YORK — The punch heard 'round the Yankee world and the poor man's substitute for Curt Schilling will haunt the Yankees this off-season as surely as

Babe Ruth used to torture the Red Sox. Kevin Brown, the man who wrecked his own postseason by punching a wall and breaking his left hand late in the regular season, turned in one of the worst starts in Yankee postseason history. Javier Vazquez, the man the Yankees acquired in a trade only when they couldn't land Schilling from the Diamondbacks, was nearly as bad in relief.

The combination sent the Yankees to an unthinkable 10-3, Game 7 loss to Boston in the ALCS on Wednesday night.



Kevin Brown

Brown lasted only 1 1/3 innings in his last spot at redemption this year, giving up five runs on four hits, including a home run by David Ortiz.

Vazquez, who took Brown's place with the bases loaded in the second inning, gave up a first-pitch grand slam to Johnny Damon to drop the Yankees into a 6-0 hole. So often a victim of the long ball this season, Vazquez gave up another two-run shot to Damon in the fourth to make it

8-1. He walked two more batters before finally giving way to Esteban Loaiza, earning an ugly pitching line of two innings, two hits, five walks and three runs.

The only mystery now is whether Brown and Vazquez are back in pinstripes next season. Both are under contract — big contracts. Brown is due \$15 million in the final year of the deal he originally signed in Los Angeles, but the one the Yankees picked up when they traded Jeff Weaver for him in the off-season. Ironically, Weaver was banished from the Bronx because of the decisive home run he surrendered to Alex Gonzalez in last year's World Series loss to the Marlins.

Vazquez was acquired from Montreal in exchange for first baseman Nick Johnson, but the deal never would have been necessary had GM Brian Cashman been able to land his big fish, which was Schilling.

Cashman was in trade discus-

sions with Arizona once it became evident Schilling was willing to be traded, but the talks ended quickly when the right-hander decided he was willing to play for Boston, the team that originally drafted him.

The surprising deal forced Cashman to change gears, and he went after the much younger Vazquez. He even rewarded Vazquez with a new long-term deal this season — \$45 million over four years — which might make him all but untradeable unless the Yankees swallow some cash.

But in the win-or-lose get-out-of-here George Steinbrenner universe, anything is possible. Imagining the volatile owner stomachaching the presence of two such unsuccessful, unmitigated postseason disasters is nearly unthinkable.

Nor can one imagine manager Joe Torre relying again on Brown in a big spot. Having been let

down so badly in this ALCS — Brown lasted only two innings and gave up four runs in his Game 4 start in Boston — Torre practically begged Brown for help prior to the start of Game 7.

"I think a lot of the game is going to play in the first three or four innings of the game and I think Kevin Brown will be very important for us if he is able to go out there and take control," Torre said. "I'm comfortable with the fact that he says he's fine to pitch."

That obviously wasn't true, and the Yankees paid the ultimate price. Brown's hideous season ended in disaster, and he took the Yankees down with him, broken bones and all. Had Brown not crushed his hand in a fit of anger after a frustrating September performance, he might have been much better prepared to use the playoffs to erase the seasonlong frustrations of a bad back and a bad infection, both of which put him on the disabled list.







David Ortiz watches his first-inning, two-run homer that started Boston's 4-1 victory over the New York Yankees in Game 7 of the ALCS.

## Red Sox surprise own fans

BY GREG SUKIENNIK  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Even with a seven-run lead and three outs to go, Red Sox Nation wasn't convinced. Fans remembered the ghosts that have haunted them for generations, and broken their hearts over and over.

This time, however, victory was theirs. The Boston Red Sox beat the mighty New York Yankees 10-3 Wednesday night in Game 7 of the American League championship series — in "The House That Ruth Built," of all places.

"I'm numb," said Woody Tomdorff, 21, of Hingham, Mass., one of thousands who poured into Boston's Kenmore Square next to Fenway Park.

Inside the CasK'N'Flagon bar in the shadows of Fenway Park's "Green Monster" left field wall, Megdan Sudak of Beverly stood with her hands over her head, eyes fixed on the TV, until the last out was made.

"Once (Mark) Bellhorn hit that home run (in the eighth inning), that's when I knew," Sudak, 27, said. "They always like to make things interesting."

Things got interesting after the final out, too.

Several small fires were set, fireworks shot into the sky, a trash can was thrown at a fast-food restaurant sign and numerous fights broke out, but a heavy police presence kept things from getting out of hand.

Boston police reported eight arrests in the neighborhood, most



Red Sox fans packed bars across New England Wednesday night, fearing the worst and hoping for the best as Boston faced the New York Yankees in Game 7 of the ALCS. They got the best, a 10-3 victory.

for disorderly conduct, though one arrest was made for assault and battery on a police officer.

About 5,000 people flooded the Southwest residential hall complex at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, but their celebration soon turned violent, police said. UMass Sgt. David White said 29 were arrested as a student, he said.

One UMass police officer was injured while making an arrest.

At UMass-Dartmouth, about 2,000 had to be dispersed by police using stun grenades. Police reportedly made several arrests.

In New Hampshire, police made 15 arrests on various disorderly conduct charges as crowds got out of hand near Plymouth State University. Plymouth

# Big man carries big stick

## Bear-like Ortiz leads the way with hits and hugs

BY JIMMY GOLEN  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The biggest comeback in postseason baseball history began when David Ortiz had one of the greatest days in baseball history.

The Boston Red Sox were on the verge of elimination, trailing the New York Yankees 3-0 in the best-of-seven AL championship series, when Ortiz hit a game-winning homer in the 12th inning to end the fourth game at 12:22 pm Monday. In Game 5 — later that same calendar day — he fisted a broken-bat bloop into center field in the 14th inning to give the Red Sox another victory.

Ortiz homered again in the clincher on Wednesday night, a two-run shot in the first inning that gave Boston a 2-0 lead and sent them on to a 10-3 victory. With three go-ahead hits, Ortiz was a unanimous choice for ALCS Most Valuable Player.

"He's been a solid rock for us," pitcher Keith Foulke said.

"Everybody else in the country

might not see it, but we see it. We see it every day."

His teammates call him "Papi" and, to borrow a phrase, he was the Yankees' daddy. In the process, he made Boston famous — for a moment at least — the frustration their fathers and grandfathers and, yes, great-grandfathers have felt as Red Sox fans.

"You guys enjoy this," Ortiz told TV cameras broadcasting back to Boston. "You've been waiting for this a long time."

No person ever wins a series by himself, and the Red Sox had other contributors.

But by putting the Red Sox ahead in three of their four victories, including two raucous game-enders, Ortiz distanced himself from the MVP competition. He batted .387 in the series with three homers and 11 RBIs.

"This game is not that easy for most of us," team president Larry Lucchino said. "He's got big, broad shoulders and he used them to carry the team, on the field and off the field. He has a big bear-like personality. And he leads the league in hugs."

The Red Sox didn't take much of a gamble when they signed the big Dominican as a free agent before the 2003 season. Giving him short money — \$1.25 million — they brought him in to fight for playing time at first base with Kevin Millar and Jason Giambi's brother, Jeremy.

Millar proved to be a better fielder, but Ortiz has made himself at home as the designated hitter and as one of the most popular players in the clubhouse. He gets credit from his teammates for keeping them loose when their situation was dire.

This franchise has featured MVP-winning sluggers Jimmie Fox, Ted Williams, Jim Rice and Mo Vaughn. None of those guys ever won the World Series in Boston, but Ortiz has a chance.

"You know how long this team and the fans have been waiting for this ballclub... not just to go to the World Series, but to win the World Series," he said. "And that's one of the big reasons for us to come to the field and represent this way we did the last four games."

## Damon slams slump in rather grand style

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Johnny Damon was confident he would break out of his terrible slump in the AL championship series.

He did — and in a big way. Damon hit a grand slam and a two-run homer in the Boston Red Sox's 10-3 victory over the New York Yankees in Game 7 on Wednesday night.

"That was very sweet," the champagne-soaked Damon said in the Red Sox's jubilant clubhouse. "We needed those runs. You can never be satisfied being up a couple of runs on the Yankees."

The long-haired heart and soul of the Red Sox was headed to an improbable World Series appearance, and he was a major reason.

"I knew this win was coming around, and tonight that was pretty evident," Damon said.

"I always expect that from Johnny," series MVP David Ortiz said. "I don't care if Johnny is 0-for-30 or 0-for-50. Everybody knows what kind of hitter Johnny is and everybody knows that Johnny is going to step up in one of those games and represent the way he did."

Damon hit .304 with 20 homers and 94 RBIs during the season, and carried his success into the first round of the playoffs by hitting .467 (7-for-15) with three stolen bases against Anaheim.

However, he was just 3-for-29, .103, with one RBI in the last six games of the ALCS.

Through it all, Damon's confidence never wavered — not when he looked lost at the plate and not when the Red Sox fell behind the Yankees 3-0 in the series.



Johnny Damon embraces his fiancée, Michelle Mangin, after Boston clinched the AL pennant.

"The good thing about this team is that we always kept the faith," he said.

Damon was 0-for-5 with five strikeouts in the first two games, prompting him to trim his long locks, looking less like a layman than usual. Yet the slump persisted — even as the Red Sox rallied to win three straight games and tie the series.

On Wednesday night, Damon had one last chance to put his mark on this series. He came to bat with the bases loaded in the second inning against Yankees reliever Javier Vazquez.

"With the bases loaded," Damon said, "I knew Vazquez was trying to sneak a fastball by me. I jumped on the first fastball."

In the fourth, Vazquez tried again to get a fastball past Damon on the first pitch. This one landed in the third deck for a two-run homer.





## SPORTS



Cardinals' Edmonds forces  
Game 7 with homer in 12th,  
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# Cursed to charmed

## 3 outs from being swept, Sox complete historic comeback over Yankees

BY RONALD BLUM  
*The Associated Press*

NEW YORK — It was a strange sight indeed, the Boston Red Sox jumping for joy in Yankee Stadium.

Seldom have the Red Sox risen so high, and rarely have the Yankees bowed so low.

Believe it, New England — the Red Sox are in the World Series.

And they got there with the most unbelievable comeback of all, with four sweet swings after decades of defeat, shaming the dreaded Yankees.

David Ortiz, Johnny Damon and Derek Lowe made sure of it.

Just three outs from getting swept in the AL championship series three nights earlier, the Red Sox finally humbled the Evil Empire, winning Game 7 in a 10-3 shocker Wednesday night to become the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason series deficit.

"All empires fall sooner or later," Boston President Larry Lucchino said.

Cursed for 86 years, these Red Sox just might be charmed.

There is no torture this time, no hour of humiliation. Better yet for Boston fans, it's the Yankees who are left to suffer the memory of a historic collapse.

"Not many people get the opportunity to shock the world. We came out and did it," Boston first baseman Kevin Millar said.

"You know what? We beat the Yankees. Now they get a chance to watch us on the tube."



Boston didn't need any of the late-inning dramatics that marked the past three games, leading 6-0 after two innings. Ortiz, the series MVP, started it with a two-run homer in the first off broken-down Kevin Brown. Damon, in a 3-for-29 (103) slide coming in, quieted Yankee Stadium in the second inning with a grand slam on Javier Vazquez's first pitch.

After Derek Jeter sparked hope of a comeback with a run-scoring single in the third, Damon put a two-run homer into the upper deck for an 8-1 lead in the fourth.

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AP photos

Above, Red Sox players celebrate after defeating the New York Yankees 10-3 in Game 7 of the AL championship series on Wednesday to complete their comeback from a 3-0 series deficit. At left, Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter (right) and third baseman Alex Rodriguez wait for New York to make a pitching change during a Boston rally. Top left, a smiling Red Sox fan sits behind a glum Yankees fan enjoying the ninth inning.

Three drivers are ahead of pack in the Chase for the Cup Page 27